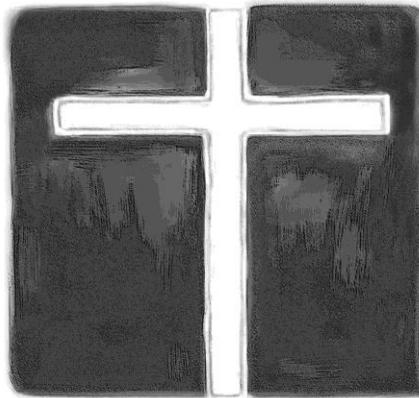


THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2020

Worship Focus

Close Encounters with The Christ: Christ and The Sinner



*Christ Jesus came
into the world to
save sinners...*

1 Timothy 1:15, NRSV

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Order of Service for THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Common Service

Christian Worship, p. 15

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OPENING HYMN

384 – By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound - less;
2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior,
3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom - ise
4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble,
5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing;



My soul, be - lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver
Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be -
When you are by your sins op - pressed, When Sa - tan
In trib - u - la - tion's fur - nace tried— By grace, de -
In Je - sus' prom - ise I re - joice. For though I



at this word of prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er
cause of your own mer - it That Je - sus died your
plagues your trou - bled con - science, And when your heart is
spite all fear and trou - ble, The Fa - ther's heart is
know my heart's con - di - tion, I al - so know my



false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -
soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -
seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -
o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -
Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
hend God by his grace to you did send.
cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?
flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Congregation

A - men.

M Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.**

LORD HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



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 12:1-8

Abram trusted in the promises of God and made that trust evident to all by his willing actions.

GENESIS 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

PSALM 121

Adult Ensemble

Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., Public Domain
Music (GUIDE 7.7.7.7 D): Marcus M. Wells, 1858, Public Domain

*To the hills I lift my eyes;
whence shall help for me arise?
From the Lord comes all my aid,
who the heavens and earth has made.
He will guard through dangers all,
will not let you slip or fall.
He who safe his people keeps
never slumbers, never sleeps.*

*Your protector is the Lord;
shade for you he will afford.
Neither sun nor moon shall smite;
God shall guard by day and night.
He will ever keep your soul;
what would harm he will control.
In the home and by the way
God will keep you day by day.*

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Although Abraham was a man of action, Paul tells us that it was his God-given faith that counted him righteous in God's sight.

ROMANS 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

VERSE OF THE DAY

**He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make. (41:3)**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the announcement of the Gospel the congregation responds:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

John 4:5-26

Through the incident of the woman at the well, Jesus makes it clear that righteousness comes only to those who drink of the living water, that is to say, who believe in Jesus Christ.

**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.**



HYMN OF THE DAY

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Words and Music: Stuart Townend

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1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us! How vast be - yond all
 2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing; no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea - sure! That He should give His on - ly Son to
 should - ers. A - shamed I hear my mock - ing voice call
 wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His



make a wretch His treas - ure! How great the pain of sear - ing loss! The
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was His love that held Him there un -
 death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from His re - ward? I



Fa - ther's Son for - sa - ken; As wounds which mar the
 til it was ac - com - plished. His dy - ing breath has
 can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
 brought me life; I know that it is fin - ished.
 all my heart; His wounds have paid my ran - som.

✘ Sermon ✘

John 4:5-26

“Stay Thirsty” is Well Said

Sermon notes:

✘ Praise and Prayers ✘

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.

Brief silence

For the baptized in their vocation of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy; for strength in the midst of temptation; for courage in the face of threat; for hope in times of despair; and for confidence amid doubts and fears, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For missionaries far and workers in your Church near, for the Lord's blessing upon both mission churches and long established congregations, for our steadfastness in the Word, for the flourishing of the work of the Kingdom everywhere, and for the Lord to prosper the work of the Church in every place, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Lord to preserve our nation and prosper the cause of justice in this land. We pray also for our president, the Congress of these United States, our governor; and for all elected and appointed civil servants. Grant us peace among the nations, and watch over those who protect us in the armed forces of our land, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Lord to grant comfort, aid, healing and peace to the sick in their afflictions; for the dying near the end of their earthly lives; and for those who struggle with adversity and sorrow, [*especially for _____,*] let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who grieve the loss of loved ones; for our own endurance in faith through trials; for the Lord to make us ready to receive our Savior when He comes in His glory, as King and Judge of all; for the families of the martyrs and those persecuted for the faith; and for the Lord to keep us in fellowship with those who have fallen asleep in the Lord and now rest from their labors, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

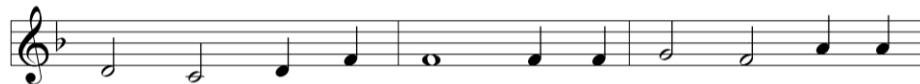
All these things and everything else we need, let us pray to the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness With a
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren With a
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who



lib - er - a - ting light; Praise the one who frees the
 strong, yet gen - tle, word; Praise the one who drove out
 suf - fered in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic -



pris - 'ners, Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 de - mons With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 to - rious That we may know God by grace.



Praise the one who preached the gos - pel, Heal - ing
 Praise the one who brings cool wa - ter To the
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, See - ing



ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing storms and feed - ing
 des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this well comes liv - ing
 what our God has done; Let us praise the true Re -



thou - sands With the Fa - ther's word of peace.
 wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 deem - er, Praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt. © 1987 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: BEACH SPRING (87 87 D) attr. Benjamin F. White, 1800-79.

✠ Sending ✠

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M 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.

to God,
BE THE
glory

CLOSING HYMN

399 – To God Be the Glory



1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,



Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 Our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son



And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.

Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY (11 11 11 11 with Refrain) William H. Doane, 1832–1915.

John 4:14, NRSV

**... THOSE WHO DRINK
OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE THEM**

WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY.”

THE SEASON IN LENT

The prepositions used in the Church Year are important. The Church just finished the season “*after* the Epiphany”. In six weeks, the Church will begin celebrating the Sunday “*of* Easter”. Currently, the Church is walking through the Sundays “*in* Lent.” Note that the Sundays are not designated as Sundays *of* Lent, but *in* Lent. That’s because the Sundays themselves are not considered part of the forty days but are islands of refreshment in our Lenten walk. Every Sunday is a “little Easter”, and so it remains even within the Lenten season.

Though the readings on the Sundays in Lent anticipate the victory of Easter, the Church’s Lenten worship is muted and quiet. For centuries, the Church has omitted her most jubilant songs of praise during this season of repentance. Worship planners may omit the use of “Alleluia” until Easter. The Song of Praise may also be omitted to reflect the somber nature of the season.

The Season (not the Sundays) of Lent leads the Church on a forty-day journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. God calls to mankind: Return to the Lord! Many congregations use the midweek Lenten services to meditate on the Passion of our Lord in their journey through Lent. The Passion of our Lord, however, is not a somber funeral procession, but a triumphant journey to the cross and through the empty tomb. For that reason, the focus of the season is not Good Friday, but Easter.

Each of the three years of the Church Year cycle emphasizes one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) with readings from John interspersed throughout each of the years. The Church Year 2019/2020 follows the readings appointed for Year A (confer *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, page 163) with Gospel lessons predominantly from Matthew.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE CHRIST

During the Sundays within Lent we follow Jesus, the Christ, as he faces the challenges or challengers placed in his path on the way to our salvation. One challenger is Satan, others are people Jesus meets on the way, another is a person no longer alive. These instances aren’t Jesus speaking to the crowds, but they are **Close Encounters with the Christ**. In each case, the Christ is victorious, anticipating his great victory on Easter.

OUR THEME FOR TODAY:

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE CHRIST: CHRIST AND THE SINNER

The Bible is conveniently divided into two main *sections*: The Old and the New Testaments. The Scriptures can also be divided into two main *messages*: The Law and the Gospel. The dual messages of Law and Gospel can be found throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Both are necessary. The Law shows us we are sinners who have not measured up to the standard of perfection required by God. The Gospel is the Good News that God has, nonetheless, forgiven sinners by his grace in Jesus Christ. In today’s Close Encounter with the Christ, notice how Jesus employs both messages as he deftly uncovers sin, but then abundantly waters with the Good News. It is an encounter each of us needs to experience!