

Holy Cross Lutheran
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 21, 2021



AS WE GATHER “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back” (Hebrews 11:17–19). The writer to the Hebrews makes such a beautiful statement about something that must have been literally gut-wrenching for Abraham. Losing a loved one is hard. Losing a child is incredibly hard. But being asked to sacrifice your one and only son? It seems unfathomable. Yet, this presents a poignant truth for us—when everything looks so wrong, God provides by keeping His promises for us and by being with us. Today, we also begin a Sunday sermon series on “The Tension in Christian Faith or Faith Tested,” what we can learn during Lent from the Word of the Lord. May the Lord bless your Lenten Journey here at Holy Cross this Lenten season.

† IN DOMINE JESU †
(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE

WELCOME “This is the Day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.” *Ps. 118:24*

GATHERING HYMN “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” *LSB 418 (TUNE LSB 857 St. Flavian)*



O Lord through-out these for - ty days you
You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; Your
Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days. That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves. Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns. We join in heav - en's praise.

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INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Romans 6:20, 22–23, adapted; Mark 1:15

P: God's Word reminds us that when we were slaves of sin, we were free in regard to righteousness.

C: But now that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

P: For the wages of sin is death,

C: but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: Let us confess our sins to God, who has brought us out of slavery and promises to lead us to the promised land of heaven. Heavenly Father, we know we are blessed when we remain steadfast under trial, yet we fall prey to the devil's schemes and give in to temptation. We are lured and enticed by our own evil desires—desires that contradict your good and gracious will.

C: For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: As Jesus began His ministry, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." As you have repented of your sins, believe these words as if Jesus was standing here speaking them to you: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **You promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, and then you asked him to sacrifice his only son. You provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice. Open our eyes to how You provide for us, especially in tough times when everything looks so wrong. Empower us to hold tightly to the promises that are "yes" for us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

† THE LIVING WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 22:1–18

(God's relationship of grace to Abraham (and Sarah) creates faith to trust God in sacrificing Isaac, their only son.)

L: ¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."

¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

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

EPISTLE

James 1:12–18

(God brings the truth of His Word into our lives, through Christ, the sacrificial gift of grace, for our sin, to save us.)

L: ¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

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

LENTEN VERSE

Ephesians 6:11

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:9–15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Father and Spirit attest to Jesus' baptism; the Spirit sends Jesus to face Satan's tests; Jesus shares the Gospel)

P: ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

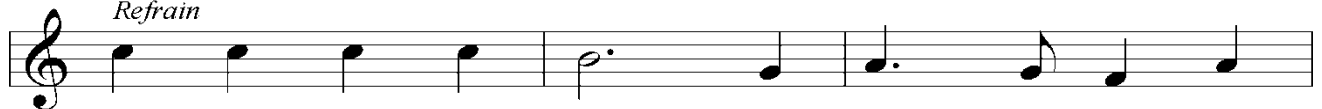
C: Praise to You, O Christ.



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain

Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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SERMON "Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio? Overcome by Grace and Faith in the Word" *Genesis 22:1-18*

CREED/CONFESSION OF FAITH *(The Sixth Petition and Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism)*

P: And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?

C: God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer")*

(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

† **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** †

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In preparation for the Lord's supper, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us)*

C: 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.

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST

(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting. Know that His peace, joy, love and forgiveness is yours now and forever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together. **Lord Jesus, we thank You for pouring out Your body and blood and serving it to us in this Meal in bread and wine. In Your mercy, strengthen and lead us as we face temptations and testing in this life on our way to the life to come, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

SONG OF SENDING

"Who You Say I am"

by Hillsong Worship

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

POSTLUDE

HOLY CROSS HAPPENINGS

February 21 – February 28, 2021

WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS! Welcome to the Lord's House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS – The OT book of Nahum led by Rev. Robert Nowak continues today.

SOUP SUPPERS - With the start of the Lenten season, soup suppers have also started, each Wednesday at 6pm.

Sign up sheets are now posted in the Commons. As always help is needed with various food categories as well as set up and clean up. We will be taking safety measures as we come together to enjoy this fellowship opportunity. If **all** help, **all** can enjoy the soup suppers! Thank you! We will also be collecting a free will offering for PABLO support during the Lenten Soup Suppers.

INFORMAL PRAYER TIME – We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings after the Lenten service until 8:00 pm in the sanctuary.

PRAY AND PLAY EVENT – WINTER FUN! SUNDAY, February 21

Sledding/Snowman Building/Snowball Battle/Snow Shoeing! First,...PREPARE! Are you prepared for winter fun in the outdoors? How do you prepare? What items do you need for safety and being smart outside in the cold temperatures? How did you gain this knowledge? Think about it and bring your list of being prepared to share and discuss and everything you need to have fun and be ready for this special Sunday Pray & Play event. * I challenge you to invite, and then bring, a friend along for winter fun at church during the SS time. (Big "kids at heart" are encouraged to participate as well!)

MCKENNA VISITING UPDATE - If interested in visiting Lohart, please call McKenna Crossing's office. Currently they have visiting on Thursday by appointment, two persons per week. Pastor and Janean visit on Wednesday however, currently because of Covid restrictions they are the only ones to visit on Wednesdays.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

SERVING TODAY - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2021 9:00 AM

Elder/Communion	Dave Albrecht
Lector:	Diane Mullenbach
Ushers:	Jason Kruse
Acolyte:	Colin Kruse
AV:	Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters:	Wendy Fitzwater & Doug Schulze

SERVING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 7:00 PM

Elder/Communion Jon Dobberstein
Lector: Robert Nowak
Ushers: Dinah Gilberts
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Rostina Vannett
Offering Counters: Michele Lein & Dave Albrecht

SERVING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 9:00 AM

Elder/Communion Brit Weimer
Lector: Michele Lein
Ushers: Dave Albrecht
Acolyte: Daniel Vannett
AV: Jason Eickhoff
Offering Counters: Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$20,928.50
Contributions received in January \$20,837.57

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 ATTENDANCE

Worship:	34	Drive-up Communion:	4
Communion:	31	Bible Class:	13
Zoom:		Sunday School:	7 kids, 3 teachers

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sun.	February 21	First Sunday in Lent
	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 am	Bible Study
	10:15-10:45 am	Drive-Up Communion
Mon.	February 22	
	5:30 pm	Elder/Leader Meeting zoom
Tue.	February 23	
	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Wed.	February 24	
	12:00 pm	Happenings Articles Due
	6:00 pm	Lent Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Informal Prayer in Sanctuary
Thu.	February 25	
Fri.	February 26	
	9:30 am	Cleaning Crew
Sat.	February 27	
Sun.	February 28	Second Sunday in Lent
	9:00 am	Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 am-11am	"Nahum" Bible Study in back of the Sanctuary
	10:15 am-10:45	Drive-Up Communion



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Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939