

First Sunday In Lent

February 18th 2024 9:30am



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Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Psalm 25:6-7

Opening Song

The Power Of The Cross

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

**Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suff'ring I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love**

**This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross**

Ministry Spotlight *Share*

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We remember in Lent that because of sin entering the world, we are dust, and to dust we shall return. *Genesis 3*

People: But Jesus loved us so much that He has become the way for us, that we may not perish, but have eternal life.

Pastor: Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." *John 11*

People: God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Like spring after winter is the faithful renewal of Jesus' love.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: As David wrote in Psalm 32 "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

People: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.”**

Pastor: Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join the Apostle John’s words:

People: **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.**

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Forgive me of my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God’s grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His Name, He gives power to become children of God, and gives His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. *Psalm 68:3*

His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master. *Matthew 25:21*

Let us pray:

People: **Gracious God, I give thanks that You are the source of joy. Forgive my focus on things that annoy. Help me to find purpose, even in the ordinary. What joy it will be to hear, “well done, good and faithful one,” and realize You are referring to me. May I have enthusiasm as I rejoice in serving You. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in

the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. ⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: 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 Lesson

Mark 1:9-15

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

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Sermon Song

Believe For It

**They say this mountain can't be moved
They say these chains will never break
But they don't know You like we do
There is power in Your name**

**We've heard that there is no way through
We've heard the tide will never change
They haven't seen what You can do**

There is power in Your name - So much power in Your name

**Move the immovable
Break the unbreakable
God we believe
God we believe for it
From the impossible
We'll see a miracle
God we believe
God we believe for it**

**We know that hope is never lost
Oh for there is still an empty grave
God we believe no matter what**

There is power in Your name - So much power in Your name

**Move the immovable
Break the unbreakable
God we believe
God we believe for it
From the impossible
We'll see a miracle
God we believe
God we believe for it**

instrumental

**You are the way when there seems to be no way
We trust in You God You have the final say**

**Move the immovable
Break the unbreakable
God we believe
God we believe for it
From the impossible
We'll see a miracle
God we believe
God we believe for it**

instrumental

**You said it
I believe it
You said it
It is done**

**Move the immovable
Break the unbreakable
God we believe
God we believe for it
From the impossible
We'll see a miracle
God we believe
God we believe for it
God we believe for it**

Offering Song

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
A home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus my eye at times can see
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
The wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

Prayers of the Church *Pray*

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: **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

Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
 May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
 May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung)**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, Jesus comforts those who mourn, and turns mourning into joy!

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

Closing Song **At The Cross (Love Ran Red)**

There's a place
 Where mercy reigns and never dies
 There's a place
 Where streams of grace flow deep and wide
 Where all the love I've ever found
 Comes like a flood comes flowing down

 At the cross at the cross I surrender my life
 I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
 Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white
 I owe all to You I owe all to You (Jesus)

 There's a place
 Where sin and shame are powerless
 Where my heart
 Has peace with God and forgiveness
 Where all the love I've ever found
 Comes like a flood comes flowing down

 At the cross at the cross I surrender my life
 I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
 Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white
 I owe all to You I owe all to You (Jesus)

instruments!

Here my hope is found
Here on holy ground
Here I bow down here I bow down

Here arms open wide
Here You saved my life
Here I bow down here I bow (down)

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At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You (Jesus)

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SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. Sign up for one (\$22.50) or two (\$45.00) vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

The Mission of the Month for February is the Lutheran Church of South Sudan. Use Mission of the Month envelopes to support this ministry and read the article in the newsletter located on the shelf outside the church office or across from the Chapel or lounge.

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Wednesday 6:00pm G.I.F.T.

Worship at Zion

Thursday 7:00pm Lenten Worship

Saturday 5:00pm Chapel Service

Sunday 8:00am Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

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