

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9

OPENING WORDS / CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ died for our trespasses but was raised
for our justification.

Rom. 4:25

Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's promise of salvation,
let us confess our sin and repent.

Rom. 4:21

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not been
sincere Christians.**

Mark 8:34-37

**We claim to follow Jesus
but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.
We profess to be disciples,
but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.
We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for sincere repentance
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news:
God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus
has been raised from the dead for our salvation.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Rom. 4:24

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross
for our salvation
and was raised from the dead for the redemption
of the world.

Rom. 4:25

Give us the courage to take up our cross
and follow him,
that through his grace we may accept
the cost of faithful discipleship
and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit,
open our hearts to receive your Word,
reveal to us the good news,
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promises,
let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, you blessed Abraham and Sarah
and promised to make them the ancestors
of many nations.

Rom. 4:13–25

In Jesus Christ you have opened your covenant
to everyone who lives by faith in you.
For all the descendants of Abraham and Sarah,
both Jews and Christians,
that they may trust in your promise,
dwell together in peace, and be a sign of your abiding love,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, Jesus your Son called disciples to follow his way
of sacrificial love.

Mark 8:35

For all pastors and teachers,
that they lead the church by humble example,

take up their cross in faithful service,
and live for the sake of the gospel,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, your reign encompasses all the earth,
though many do not remember your
gracious sovereignty.

Ps. 22:27–28

For peace among the nations
and for integrity within governments,
that your will be done on earth as in heaven,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of the poor,
and you satisfy the hungry with good things.
For the poor and the oppressed,
that they may find deliverance,
and for all who voluntarily take up the cross of self-denial
to serve the poor and alleviate human misery,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Ps. 22:26

God, you know the needs of the afflicted
and you hear their cries.

Ps. 22:24

For those who suffer illness of mind or body,
that they may find relief from suffering
and be restored to wholeness,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Grant these prayers, Holy God, by your grace.
Stir up in us the will to seek out your kingdom
with the dedication of our lives in ministry to the world,
for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ,
through whom we pray. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

What will it profit us to gain the whole world
and forfeit our life?

Mark 8:36

With all humility let us make our offering to God,
trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant
you established with Abraham and Sarah,
which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives,
that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love
and a testament to your enduring promise.
In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor
and glory are yours,
Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHARGE

Disciples of Jesus,
do not shun the way of the cross,
but follow wherever our Lord may lead.

BLESSING

May the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
uphold you on the way.

Questions for Reflection

Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. How do you practice self-denial for the sake of the gospel? Is every instance of self-denial an act of obedience to Jesus? Can some forms of self-denial foster oppression?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus,
help me walk with you this day.
If you lead me where I fear to go,
give me courage and keep me true,
that I may bear my cross without shame
and live in the promise of life eternal. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, if I stray,
show me my fault,
forgive my sin,
and set me rightly on your path.
Keep me on the way of the cross,
and lead me to the eternal joy of Easter. Amen.