St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent

BOLD WOMEN’S DAY

February 25, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Rita Jordan, Organist
Mary Maddox, Lay Reader

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Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The second covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God’s promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham’s faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Loving God, we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.

Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God’s love never runs out.
God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p. 324) In the Cross of Christ I Glory
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

A LITANY OF THANKS FOR BOLD WOMEN

Women and girls speaking the responses may answer in any or all of the roles they live:

Leader: Lord our God, we give thanks today for the witness of bold women. From the earliest times until today and on into the future, bold women show all of us how to live as God’s beloved children in God’s beloved creation, carrying out our baptismal call to work for justice and peace for all God’s creatures.

Leader: For Eve, mother of us all, sinful and beloved, we say:

All: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Miriam, who danced beside the Red Sea, we say:

Young women: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Mary, mother of Jesus, who pondered the angel’s words in her heart, we say:

Mothers: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Mary Magdalene, first to hear the voice of the Risen Christ, we say:

Single women: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Naomi, who rejoiced in her grandson Obed, we say:

Grandmothers: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For the Syro-Phoenician woman, bold enough to challenge Jesus himself for her child’s sake:

Daughters: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Mary and Martha of Bethany, who served the Lord together in their different ways, we say:

Sisters: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For the persistent widow, who would not rest until she won justice, we say:

Widows: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Katharine von Bora Luther, who ran to embrace change in her world, we say:

Married women: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For the witness of all bold women, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, Lord our God, we thank you and we praise you. Lord our God, let their boldness flourish in our own hearts as we live out our baptismal call to serve you and our neighbor, with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

All: Thank you, Lord! Alleluia, Amen!
PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Oh Dios, por la pasión de tu bendito hijo hiciste un instrumento de vergonzosa muerte para ser para nosotros los medios de vida. Danos la gloria en la Cruz de Cristo para que podamos sufrir con gusto la vergüenza y la pérdida por el bien de tu hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina contigo y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah’s old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God’s promise.

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you through their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” 15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 22:23-31

R All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

23You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.
24For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.
25 From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever! R

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28 For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

29 Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

30 Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

31 They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!” R

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

13 The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. 16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us), 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23 Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
Glory to You, O Lord!

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

31 Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” 34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For 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. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON
Rev. Arden G. Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 333) Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Make us bold to proclaim your love. Give us courage to carry the cross that confronts us each day and follow Christ. Strengthen pastors, bishops, deacons, and all who minister in your name. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For flowing streams and still waters. For urban parks and wilderness reserves. For pastures and forests. Instill within us a reverence for the earth as your creation and our fragile home. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor our common humanity within diversity. Turn enemies into friends. Lead us away from hatred, fear, and misunderstanding. Show our hearts the way to peace and fill us with compassion. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For people whose struggles we fail to acknowledge. For those who leave their homes and families in search of safety or employment. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill, especially Elvira, Lorain, Pauline, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Matilda, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Barbara, Justin, Ella, Khloe, Jim, Charles, Eli, Casey, Steve, Marlane, Yvonne, Jackie, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those who prepare this space for worship. For ministries of fellowship and hospitality. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for all who provide care and support to those who are homebound. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in the faith. Bring them to the fullness of their inheritance in Christ and into the joy of eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you
Meal
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.

PIANO SOLO

This is My Father’s World
Lillie Jonas

OFFERTORY HYMN (ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Barmherziger Gott, empfangen das Opfer unser Lob und Danksagung und das Angebot von unserem Leben, nach dem Weg des Kreuzes, können wir wissen, dass die Freude der Auferstehung; durch Christus, unseren Herrn.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert. The assembly is seated.

**DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.**

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.
Following Communion, the assembly stands.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

Amen.

**SENDING HYMN  (ELW p. 840) Now Thank We All Our God**

**DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884) Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Welcome**

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.
For Prayerful Consideration

Ill or Injured

For those in the military
Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Birthdays
Allen Jonas (Feb. 25), Kim Chevalier (Feb. 27), Jeff Jonas, Evie Swick (Mar 2), Cassidy Jonas (Mar 3)

Looking Ahead!

Each Wednesday in Lent
Soup and Sandwich Fellowship: 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study: 6:20 p.m.
Worship: 7:00 p.m.

TODAY: Pre-Assembly Conference Meeting – 3:00 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church, Beeville
All members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

BOLD WOMEN’S DAY
Celebrate the bold women in your life

BOLD WOMEN’S DAY 2018

Bold Women’s Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It’s all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?

RELAY FOR LIFE OF KARNES COUNTY will be going "On the Road" this year. If anyone would like to help St. Paul’s sponsor this event, please have donations to the church by Sunday, March 11. Please write checks to: “American Cancer Society”. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Jonas.
Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly Offering

This year’s Synod Assembly Offering will go to the ELCA Fund For Leaders.

We all celebrate when someone in our congregation experiences a call to ministry and enrolls in seminary. When it comes time to call a new pastor, we all hope there will be several good candidates to interview. But how often do we think about what comes in between?

God is faithful and continues to raise up new leaders for the church, but too often we see that path to ministry interrupted, postponed, or delayed due to financial concerns. Tuition for one year at an ELCA seminary averages $15,000. Students also have to pay living expenses during their years of study. Most are leaving careers and paychecks behind. Many carry significant loans from their undergraduate degrees, while others are having to relocate families. Those who are able to finish often carry even more debt, and are limited in what calls they can consider and still be able to pay their bills.

The Southwestern Texas Synod has established an endowed scholarship through the ELCA Fund for Leaders to help with tuition costs for our ministry candidates. With this year’s Synod Assembly Offering, we hope to support more candidates each year with more substantial scholarships.

Your congregation’s contribution will help ensure that more of our candidates are able to enter ministry sooner and with fewer financial burdens to hold them back.

Invest in the future of the ELCA

Please make your check payable to your congregation. The congregation will send the assembly offering to the synod office or take it to the synod assembly in May.
ELCA World Hunger creatively and courageously works toward a just world where all are fed. In the box below, search up, down, forward, backward and diagonal to find hidden words that relate to our work together as church.