

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# The Second Sunday in Lent      February 25, 2024

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 115:11-13, 18; Antiphon: Psalm 25:6*

*Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love.*

for they have been from of old.

*You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!*

He is their help and their shield.

*The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;*

he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

*he will bless those who fear the LORD,*

both the small and the great.

*We will bless the LORD*

from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love.*

for they have been from of old.

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

## **GRADUAL**

*Hebrew 12:2*

*[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,*

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

*who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,*

*despising the shame,*

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

After each petition:

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C**      **hear our prayer.**



## **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (ESV)**

When 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, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

## **Romans 5:1-11 (ESV)**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our

hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **Mark 8:27-38 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not

setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a

man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Romans 5:1–11

Mark 8:27–38

### *By the Cross of Our Lord Jesus We Inherit Life Everlasting with God*

In His covenant with Abraham, the Lord promised to be with him, to bless him, and to make him “*the father of a multitude of nations.*” It is “*an everlasting covenant*” in Christ Jesus, the seed of Abraham who is blameless before God Almighty. All who believe in this Lord Jesus are the offspring of Abraham and are blessed “*throughout their generations*” (Gen. 17:1–7), because the Christ has suffered many things, He was rejected and killed, and after three days He rose again (Mark 8:31). To comprehend this theology of the cross, we must set our mind “*on the things of God,*” and not “*on the things of man*” (Mark 8:33). “*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Rom. 5:8). Therefore, having been “*reconciled to God by the death of His Son,*” much more “*shall we be saved by His life*” (Rom. 5:10). Baptized into His cross and resurrection, “*we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*” and by faith we rejoice in the hope of His glory (Rom. 5:1–2).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

March 3: Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19 (v.8);

1 Corinthians 1 :18-31; John 2:13-22 (23-25)