

The First Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I 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."

The Psalm

Psalm 22:22-30

Deus, Deus meus

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Said together:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

Romans 4:13-25

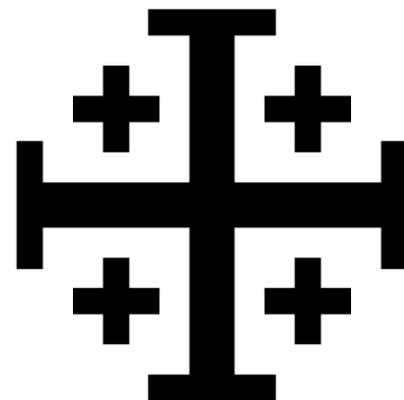
For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

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, 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. 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." 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. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Hymn

Lord, who throughout these forty days

H 142



Gospel Lesson

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples 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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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."

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. 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 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 Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

Prayers of the People V

BCP 389

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*

Offertory *Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs* Willan

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in three-fold Name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord* *from H 143, v. 5*

Eucharistic Prayer "C" BCP 369

Sanctus Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S129

The Lord's Prayer Traditional version, found on BCP 364

Agnus Dei H-S 161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

Strengthen for service, Lord H 312

Day by day H 654

And now, O Father, mindful of the love H 337

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 366

Hymn *Take my life, and let it be* H 707

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Bea and Teresa Paine. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist.
Please join us.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte Becky Beckett Rob Merritt Will Puckett

Lectors David Kersey Becky Beckett

Chalicists Rob Merritt Becky Beckett

Altar Guild Kay Sudduth Betty Nash Elizabeth Sudduth

Attendance Last Sunday

48

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes—Wanda Myers—Bonnie Taylor—Joe Sanders—Marlene—Lee Puckett, Sr.—Phyllis & Nelson Walker—Linda—Valerie Mahood—Edi—Sierra—Alex B.—Toni R.—Linda Sydeski—Joan—Ragen—Marion Lowe—Jared Cregger—Peyton Cline and family—Kerrigan Farmer—Mike—Daisy Bowman

Birthdays This Week:

Kay Sudduth, John Brannon and John Georgis

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – February 28 Lenten Dinner 6pm Catered by David's Downtown

Wednesday – February 28 Union Mission at 4:30pm

Announcements:

Lenten Dinner: This year's theme will be on Christian spirituality and mindfulness, led by Dr. Assaad Mounzer. Dinner will be carry in or catered as announced. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a friend!

Lent Madness: It's that time of year again! Get your copy of the 2018 Sainly Scorecard at the Usher's Table in the Narthex. Read the short biographies of the saints each day and vote for your favorite at www.lentmadness.org. Who will win this year's Golden Halo?

Coffee Hour: We are in need of volunteers for Coffee Hour!



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Rector of Christ Church

Ms. Emma Bennett

Parish Administrator

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Organist & Choirmaster

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

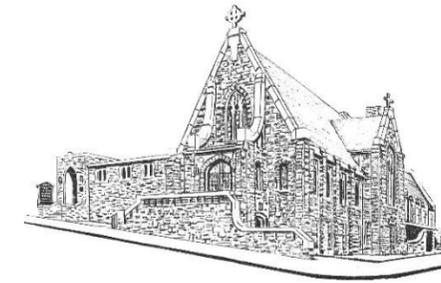
Sexton

Dr. Rob Merritt

CEC Senior Warden

Mrs. Dee Puckett

CEC Junior Warden



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<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbluefield>

February 25, 2018

The Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *My faith looks up to thee*

H 691

The Reading of the Decalogue

BCP 350

During Lent we are reminded of God's Law, as symbolized by the Ten Commandments. Following the reading of each of the Commandments, please respond with, *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

The Trisagion

H-S 102

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Collect

Our collective prayer for the day.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*