SECOND SUNDAY



PISCOPA

HOLY COMFORTER

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS

Please complete the information card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF HOLY COMFORTER

Though very diverse politically and socially, care for each other and care deeply for how our faith is manifested in the community. We believe all people are equal in God's hand. Our nurturing congregation has an appreciation for diverse perspectives and opinions. We grow through a continually evolving and questioning discussion regarding our faith, God, and society. We welcome all, without reservation, into our Christian body to be part of a loving and sharing family.

WE CARE

Please call the church office at (336) 227-4251 if you or someone you know needs visitation, prayers or other assistance because of illness or inability to attend worship service.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, and experience God's presence within the church family, nurturing each other through a comprehensive parish program while affirming each other's individual ministries and responding to Jesus' continuing call to minister to others.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar greenery today are given to the Glory of God by Gregg Lee in memory of Elizabeth Carleton Lee and Diana Lewis Lee.

The Melanie Barbarito

OFFICIANT

LAY MINISTERS VERGER Steven Swanner ORGANIST Christin Baker **USHERS** 8:15am - Ron Driscoll 10:30am - Patrick Rudd, Hu Womack READERS 8:15am - Elizabeth Hansen 10:30am - Patrick Rudd, Gary Schilke ACOLYTES 8:15am - Curt Odem 10:30am - Chalicist - Kathy Hykes Crucifer - Gary Schilke Left Torch Bearer - Steve Slott **Right Torch Bearer - Davis Slott Gospel Bearer - Fletcher Slott VESTRY COUNTERS** Diana Wallace. Alex Stevens CHILDREN'S CHAPEL Jim Romer. Mourine Todd FLOWER GUILD Jennell Harris, Margaret Egede-Nissen, Patsy Isley, Mary Telander ALTAR GUILD Janie Sellers, Betty Brown, Rene Burgess, Mary Collins, Lynn Dahl, Beth Glidewell. Elizabeth Hansen, Debbie Nichols-Smith Martha Adams, Jennell Harris, Chappy Moser SUNSHINE COMMITTEE **Cheryl Miner, Janie Sellers**

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | 401

The God of Abram praise



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

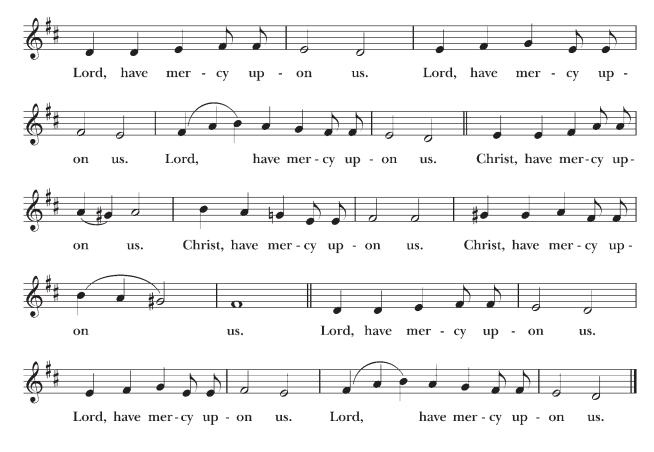
Officiant People Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. *His mercy endures for ever.* Here what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

The Deacon or Celebrant then says Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of they holy Name. Amen.



OfficiantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd Also with you.

KYRIE | S-91

COLLECT

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.**

ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO FOLLOW THE CRUCIFER TO GODLY PLAY IN THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL.

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."

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

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;
- 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.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 4:13-25

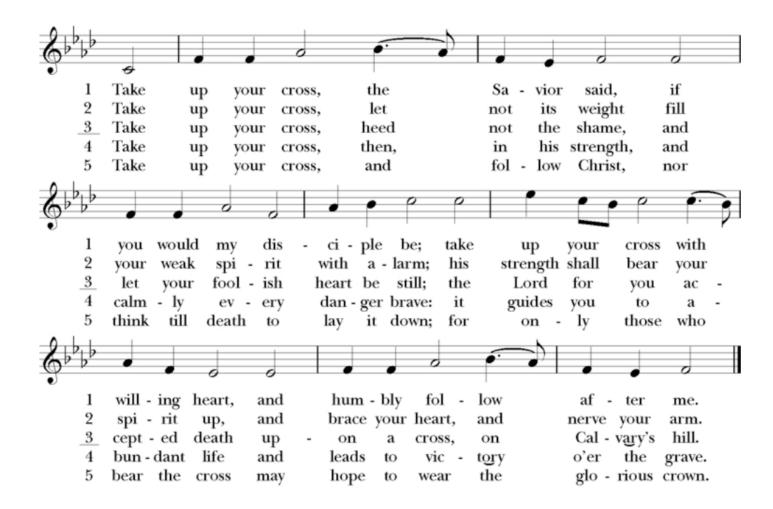
For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, 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.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN | 675 Take up your cross, the Savior said

(Sequence hymn lyrics on next page)



The Officiant reads the Gospel, first saying

GospelerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

THE GOSPEL

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."

People	Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Gospeler	The Gospel of the Lord.

BCP 358

Officiant and People

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 Cod from true Cod, 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 THE PEOPLE

Form I | BCP 328

Reader

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world. Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers **[especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops]**, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land **[especially Joseph, our President, Roy our Governor, and James our Mayor],** that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor **[see prayer list]** all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear **[especially _____]**, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of **[______ and of]** all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

A TRANSITION PRAYER FOR HOLY COMFORTER

Ever-present God,

You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.

We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.

We are not sure where we are or who we are.

Transition is not a comfortable place.

May we continue to remind ourselves of the wonderful resources of this Church Sanctuary and a warm and welcoming congregation.

Be among us, we pray.

Calm our fears, save us from discouragement.

Encourage us to care for one another.

And help us to stay on course.

Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey toward calling a new Rector continues as a journey of trust, and faith and love. **Amen**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew* 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

OfficiantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Lamb of God Most Holy

O Lamb of God most holy Who on the cross did suffer So patient still and lowly Yourself to scorn did offer. Our sins by you were taken Or hope had us forsaken Have mercy on us, Jesus!

When I survey the wondrous cross, On which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharist Prayer II

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest faces them and sings or says

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And with thy spirit.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People	It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

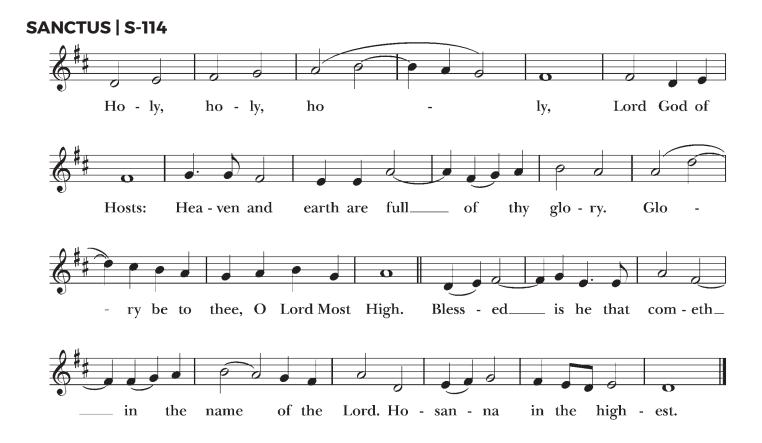
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sandra Gay

BCP 340



Here may be added

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty

resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept The choir will immediately sing the fraction anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM | S-158

(Fraction Anthem lyrics on next page)

BCP 364

BCP 364



Facing the people, the Officiant says the following Invitation. The Gifts of God for you, who are also gifts of God.

Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the Altar may cross their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS

691 | My faith looks up to thee





POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For those attending remotely.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

SOLEMN PRAYER

The Celebrant says Bow down before the Lord

The people kneel and the Celebrant says the following prayers:

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL | 636

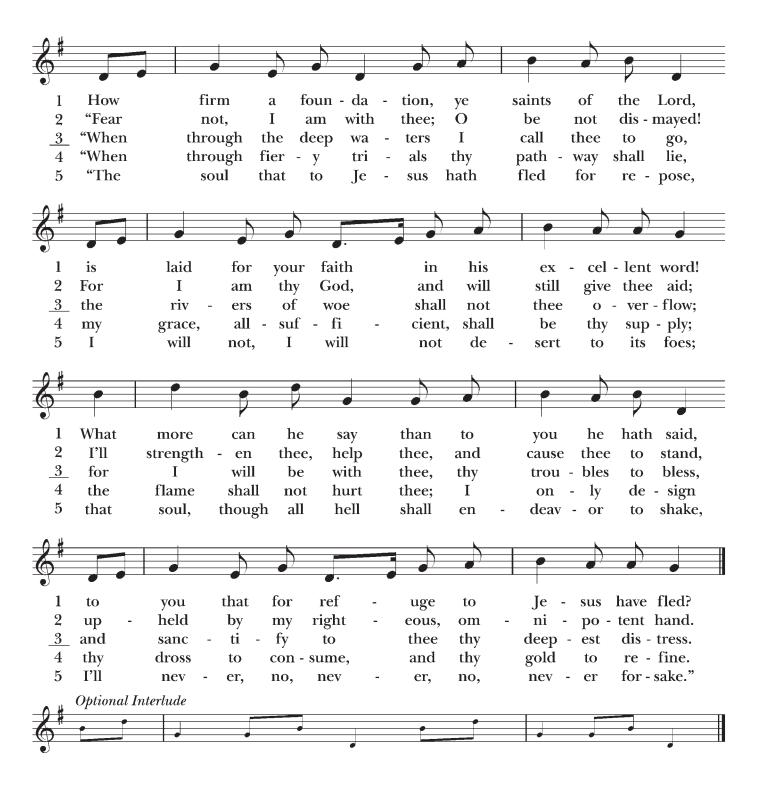
How firm a foundation

(Recessional lyrics on next page)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

BCP 339



BULLETIN FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | LIFE TRANSFORMED – WEEK 2

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Together, we will reflect anew on the loving actions of God as recounted in the Easter Vigil readings. Together, we will walk through the depths of salvation history into the fullness of redemption. Throughout Lent, come along with us as we explore Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent, produced by Hillary Raining and Jenifer Gamber. You can find resources mentioned below at iam.ec/lifetransformed or by scanning the QR code to the right.

Sunday, February 25 | Today's Practice: Watch the Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining's video at iam. ec/lifetransformed for Week 2. The topic is based on the practice "Pray" and is titled, "Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea". *Read:* Exodus 14:10-15:1

Monday, February 26 | Today's Prompt: Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. *Read:* "Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." – Genesis 2:7

Tuesday, February 27 | Today's Prompt: What passage of scripture is important to you? Why? **Read:** "The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." – Isaiah 40:8

Wednesday, February 28 | Today's Prompt: Listen to the Daily Office today at missionstclare. com. *Read:* "But I will call upon God, and the LORD will deliver me." – Psalm 55:17

Thursday, February 29 | Today's Prompt: How did you turn back toward God's love when you made a big mistake? **Read:** "I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you." – Luke 15:18

Friday, March 1 | *Today's Prompt:* Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? *Read:* "And you shall be my people, and I will be your God. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit." – Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5

Saturday, March 2 | Today's Prompt: In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? *Read:* "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." – Philippians 4:6

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COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY				
FEBRUARY 18 SERVICE COUNT	8:15AM 19 10AM 109 REMOTE 43			
COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS				
MONDAY FEB 12 - SUNDAY FEB 18				
GENERAL FUND PLEDGED	\$3,709.87			
PLEDGED	\$11,208.49			
OTHER	\$2,350.98			
TOTAL	\$17,269.34			

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WAYS TO CONNECT

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