

**AS WE GATHER:** “Don’t make promises you can’t keep.” This old proverbial saying is a good one. If a person heeds it, they can avoid a heap of trouble! In today’s Old Testament Reading, God Himself makes a promise that seems impossible to keep. The Lord appears to a ninety-nine-year-old man and promises him descendants, and not just a few descendants, but that he will be the father of a multitude of nations. Thankfully, God never makes promises He can’t keep. Through the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham, the Lord ultimately provides a descendant by whom all nations would be blessed—Jesus Christ, the Son of Abraham, the Son of God. Through Him, God promises you forgiveness, life, and salvation—a promise that the Lord will keep!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Greeting**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

Versicles..... Page 219

✠ PSALMODY ✠

Common Antiphon ..... Page 220

Venite ~ *O Come, Let Us Sing* and Common Antiphon.....Pages 220-221

Psalm..... Psalm 22:23-31



- P** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,\*  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!
- C** For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his | face  
from him,\*  
but has heard, when he | cried to him.
- P** From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;\*  
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.
- C** The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall | praise the LORD!\*  
May your hearts live for- | ever!



- P** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,\*  
and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore you.
- C** For kingship belongs | to the LORD,\*  
and he rules over the | nations.
- P** All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;\*  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep him- | self  
alive.
- C** Posterity shall | serve him;\*  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;
- P** they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,\*  
that he has | done it.
- All** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Office Hymn.....“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” #437 (E)

✠ READINGS ✠

Old Testament Reading..... Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

*[God renames Abram and Sarai.]*

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, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 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. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 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.

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name 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 become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle ..... Romans 5:1–11

*[We are reconciled to God.]*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope

<sup>①</sup>“Reminiscere” is the traditional name for the Second Sunday in Lent. It is the first word in the Historic Latin Introit and means “Remember.”

of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 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.

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

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Holy + Gospel**.....**St. Mark 8:27–38**  
*[Take up your cross and follow Christ.]*

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?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

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. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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.”

And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? 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.”

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Responsory for Lent** ..... Page 222

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day** .....“**Lift High The Cross**” #837 (G)

**Sermon**.....“**Your Spiritual Family Tree**” Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

1. God’s promise - \_\_\_\_\_
2. God’s promise - \_\_\_\_\_
3. God’s promise - \_\_\_\_\_

**+ CANTICLE +**

**Benedictus** .....Pages 226-227

**Offering and Attendance Registration**

**+ PRAYER +**

**Kyrie, Lord’s Prayer, Collect of the Day, and Intercessions** .....Pages 227-228

- P** Let us pray to the Lord, **C** Lord, have mercy. *or* **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

**Benedicamus and Benediction** ..... Page 228

**Hymn of Departure** .....“**My Song Is Love Unknown**” #430 (E)

**Silent Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Sending:**

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

**WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH!** We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

**AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY** - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

**IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON** students study the account "Paul Sails for Rome." As Christ was with Paul and His companions, so He is with me, holding me up, keeping me with Him in the ship of the Church, and casting all my sins into the depths of the sea. Parents could ask, "Who and what did God use to keep Paul safe? How does God keep us safely with Him?"

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** "Leviticus: Life in the Blood" -- Holiness. What is it? Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

**THE SEASON OF LENT,** a time of reflection, repentance and preparation. Our Lenten theme this year is "Who Wants Jesus To Die?" Each midweek service is preceded by a Lenten fellowship meal. Your assistance in providing food is appreciated.

**EASTER LILIES:** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to purchase Easter Lilies. They are \$9 each.

**NEWSLETTER** - The **MARCH** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

**NEW CATECHISM:** If you ordered the new Small Catechism and have not yet paid for it, please do so. The church office needs to clear the accounting records. The cost of each book is \$15. Thank you!

**ON SUNDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>** Mr. Paul Jones from the Palestine Community Food Pantry will be here to receive a check from our 11<sup>TH</sup> annual Chili Friday. He will also report how our donations are benefitting the community.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** devotion booklets for January through March are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

**FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:** In order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, please pick up the Gospel of John books in the narthex to distribute to those in our community.

**GREETING CARDS:** Are you looking for a beautiful card for special occasions? The ladies of the LWML are selling greeting cards for a 50 cent donation towards MITES. Cards are located on the rack in the narthex.

**A SCHOLARSHIP FUND** has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

**STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT:** (St. Mark 8:32) – "And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him." Anytime we sin we are acting like Peter: thinking we know better than the Lord. But as Jesus says, such acts stem from Satan. So let us repent: let us trust our Lord Jesus and follow Him. For certainly He has earned our trust with His gracious sacrifice for us.

**LIFE QUOTES:** "So when we see the embryo ... in that petri dish—vulnerable, helpless, and destined for destruction—we are compelled to speak and defend and help. And not because it is the right thing to do or the moral thing to do, but because it is the Christ thing to do. Our God became incarnate as an embryo, giving value to all embryos." Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**OUR WORSHIP STYLE:** We are a "liturgical" church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God's Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, "We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us." If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

**ABOUT THE COVER** From the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, He prepared His disciples for the events that would complete His life on earth. Throughout all the suffering Jesus would endure, His desire was that all people believe that He loves them and has given up His life willingly, so that all may live with the heavenly Father for eternity. God's great love for us provided our salvation.

| <b>OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</b> |             |                          |    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----|
| <b>OFFERINGS</b>                 |             | <b>ATTENDANCE</b>        |    |
| General Offering                 | \$1788.73   | Sunday School            | 33 |
| [Needed per week:                | \$2,668.00] | Divine Service           | 65 |
| Building Fund                    | \$.00       | Communion                | 62 |
| [Needed per week:                | \$350.00]   | Mid-Week Lent II (02/21) | 42 |
| Ash Wednesday                    | \$468.28    |                          |    |

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, St. John 2:13-22.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

|                          |                  |  |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday (02/25)</b>    | <b>9:00 AM</b>   | <b>Lent 2 (Reminiscere)</b>                        |
|                          |                  | <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>           |
|                          | <b>10:15 AM</b>  | <b>Divine Service (Matins)</b>                     |
|                          | Acolyte:         | Matthew Jackson                                    |
|                          | Organist:        | Mary Bowden  |
|                          | Altar Guild:     | Kelly Lawson & Lana Bowden                         |
|                          | Duty Elder:      | Devin Jackson                                      |
| <b>Wednesday (02/28)</b> | <b>5:15 PM</b>   | <b>Choir Practice</b>                              |
|                          | <b>6:00 PM</b>   | <b>Lent Meal</b>                                   |
|                          | <b>7:00 PM</b>   | <b>Lent Midweek III</b>                            |
|                          | Acolyte:         | Jessica Bowden                                     |
|                          | Pianist:         | Sylvia Frenzel                                     |
| <b>Sunday (03/04)</b>    |                  | <b>Lent 3 (Oculi)</b>                              |
|                          | <b>9:00 AM</b>   | <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>           |
|                          | <b>10:15 AM</b>  | <b>Divine Service (Setting 4) / Holy Communion</b> |
|                          | Acolyte/Crucifer | Christopher Harris                                 |
|                          | Pianist:         | Sylvia Frenzel                                     |
|                          | Altar Guild:     | Donna Hughes & Mary Unk                            |
|                          | Duty Elder:      | Gil Daughtrey                                      |
|                          | After Church:    | Evangelism Board                                   |

### IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

**National Leadership and Military:** including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

**Health needs - Members:** **Mary Lou Daughtrey** (2/25), George Nelson; **Friends:** David Bailes (2/18) [Steve & Mary Unk's son-in-law], **Joan Smith** (2/25) [Dorothy Jackson's niece]

**Homebound - Members:** Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ...

**Comfort: family and friends of Gerald Frenzel** [Mike Frenzel's brother]

**Celebrating this week: Birthdays:** W.L. Elmore, Bethany Worsham... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Leo Markwardt

**NOTE:** New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

**TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678**

**Note:** The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM  
 Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM  
 Divine Service: 10:15 AM

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Rev. David L. Adler,  
 Pastor

*“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”*