

St. Luke's Table

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

The Lord is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of
my life; of whom shall I be
afraid?

Psalm 27:1



Christ Carrying the Cross, Del Piombo Sebastiano
Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary

Welcome and Good Morning!

A Service of The Word. Artwork from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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Leading: Clair MacInnis

Musician: Peter Grant

Scripture Readers: Gary Simms & Catherin Chandler

Liturgical elements from: Seasonal MP & EP: slides – 14-16

Connections Worship Companion: slides 3, 4,5, 11-14, 51, 54

The Gathering of the Community

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Beloved of God,
let us join our hearts in worship this day.

Let us pray:

God of all creation,
as a hen gathers her chicks together,
so we gather here to worship within the safety and
warmth of your wings.

**We look to you to know what righteousness is.
We listen to you that we might know which path to
take. Open our eyes and our ears so that we may
follow you well.**

May we see your promises more brightly than we do the stars and hear your good news more clearly than the noise that inhabits our lives.

**We are here, God, watching and listening.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn



Lift Every Voice and Sing
Augusta Savage

The Symbols of Lent: The Whip

The Lenten symbol we bring to the cross today is the whip, an instrument of power and violence. Today in our Scripture readings we also consider the promises of God to Abram, freely given, without coercion. Because Abram trusted God, he was brought into right relationship, into God's own covenantal righteousness.

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**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy upon us.
Too often we do violence in our
relationships. We confess that we
coerce, and are coerced, rather
than living in trust. In the shadow
of your cross we cry, “Have mercy
on us.”**



God's covenant with Abram came in deep and terrifying darkness. The new covenant Jesus offered in his blood came in the deep and terrifying darkness of our violence. In his life and death Jesus offered himself, absorbing our violence and returning only love.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. We live in the deep and terrifying darkness of our own violence. We confess our entrapment by the powers of this world. In the shadow of your cross we cry, "Have mercy on us."

Let us pray together

**O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy:
We look at Jesus, and we look at ourselves, and we
confess the great difference.
Deliver us from our violence;
conform us to his love.
We admit our helplessness apart from your grace.
We thank you that through the resurrection your grace
abundantly pardons and transforms us!
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

The Lord is a refuge and fortress for us,
protecting us from evil.

Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess our sins.

**We confess to you, O God,
that we have been tempted by evil
and have succumbed to sin.
You nourish us with your eternal word,
but we hunger for bread that perishes.**

**You call us to worship you alone,
but we seek to serve worldly powers.
You offer us salvation,
but we gamble with the gift of life.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.
Guide us by your word
and guard us with your Spirit,
so that we may live in faith
and follow you faithfully;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

Hear the promise of the Lord:
When you call on me, I will answer;
I will satisfy you with life
and show you my saving love.
This is the good news of God's reconciling love:
in the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

A Song of Humility

Hosea 6:1-6

Come let us return to the Lord
who has torn us and will heal us.

God has stricken us
and will bind up our wounds.

After two days, God will revive us,
and on the third day raise us up,
so that we may live in the presence of the Lord.

Let us strive to know the Lord,
whose appearing to us is as sure as the sunrise.

God will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.

O' Ephraim, how shall I deal with you?
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?

'Your love for me is like the morning mist,
like the dew that goes early away.

Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.

For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.'

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.

The Collect of the Day

**Hope beyond all human hope,
You promised Abraham and Sarah
descendants as numerous as the stars.
You promise light and salvation
in the midst of darkness and despair,
and redemption to a world that will not listen.
Gather us in tenderness and open our ears to your word,
so that we may live faithfully and confidently in your
promises.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18



Landscape with Stars, Henri Edmond Cross
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”

He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove and a pigeon."

He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell over Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram,

saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates...”

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27 *(Read alternatively)*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil doers assail me to devour my flesh – my adversaries and my foes – they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent, he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.

Faithful God, the shelter of all who hope in you, may those who seek your face be set free from fear and distress, and come to see your goodness in the land of the living; through Jesus Christ, our Light and our Salvation.

Amen

Second Reading:
Philippians 3:17-4:1



Reading the Bible, Gerrit Dou
Louvre Museum, Paris, France

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is their destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things

subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm
in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn



In Tune (Deborah)
Lauren Wright Pittman

The Good News:
Gospel of Christ
according to
Luke 13:31-35
(shared as a Reading)



Mother Hen, Lauren Wright Pittman

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen

gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection



Salvation Mountain -- Leonard Knight, Niland, CA

The Creed

Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People



Global Refugee Mural -- Joel Bergner, Silver Spring, MD

The Peace

We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory

The gift of God's goodness and glory inspires us to give in return.

Whether we offer today our money or our time, whether we give of our talents or of our treasure, let us offer them with joy and thanksgiving.

Offertory Hymn



La Ofrenda, or, The Offering, Saturnino Herran
Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico City

Prayer over the Gifts

**God of wisdom,
may the light of the eternal Word,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
guide us to your glory.
We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

**Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise
for all you have done for us.**

**We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,
and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
and for the loving care
which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us tasks
which demand our best efforts,
and for leading us to accomplishments
which satisfy and delight us.
We thank you also for those disappointments
and failures that lead us to acknowledge
our dependence on you alone.**

**Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of his word and the example of his life;
for his steadfast obedience,
by which he overcame temptation;
for his dying, through which he overcame death;
for his rising to life again,
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit,
that we may know Christ and make him known;
and through him, at all times and in all places,
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray:

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

May the Lord who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love bless and keep us now and always.

Amen.

Announcements



Armenian Pottery Painting
Armenian Quarter, Jerusalem, Israel

Closing Hymn



The Heart of the Community
Corner of Hastings St and Main St, Vancouver, BC

Dismissal

Friends, wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage.

**May our hearing of the word and doing it be joined
together this week and always.**

Amen.

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