

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**
**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**
**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**
**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

***Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ELW 834

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

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***Prayer of the Day**

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

¹ 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." ² 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?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ 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 young pigeon." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ 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.”

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

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

² **When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I
will sing and make music | to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your | way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will | of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD | and be strong.**
Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ 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. ^{4:1} 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation** (*Return to the Lord*)

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***Gospel: Luke 13:31-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² 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. ³³ 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.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the 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! ³⁵ 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.’ ”

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Emma Askildson

Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

***Hymn**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

*** Prayers of Intercession**

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*** Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Holy Communion All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Communion Hymns

Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW 468

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

***Prayer After Communion**

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Blessing**

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Preaching: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Viv Nore

Ushers: Rick Kuhlman, David Osterberg, Fran Long

Communion: Rick and Mary Kuhlman

Communion Setup: Viv Nore, Linda Cartee, Tammy Oester

Tech: Mark Oester