

Welcome & Announcements

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us return to our gracious and merciful God, confessing our need for healing.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Gracious God,

C: In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: Almighty God looks upon us with mercy and by water and the word joins us to the saving death of Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit God raises us with Christ to new life.

C: Amen

Kyrie **ELW page 138 / Screen**

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The First Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Second Lesson Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Acclamation *"Lent Verse"* **ELW page 189 / Screen**

Gospel Reading Mark 8:31-38

Sermon **Pastor Steve Thompson**

Confession of Faith The Apostle's Creed **Screen**

Prayers of Intercession

Offering Hymn *"Take Up Your Cross"* **ELW # 667**

Holy Communion

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Distribution Hymns **ELW # 742, 773, 714**

Worship Choir *"Take Up Your Cross"*

Blessing

P: The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, + be among you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Sending Song *"Lead Me, Guide Me"* **ELW # 768**

Worship Notes

Welcome Visitors! Please sign the guest book, located at the church entrance. Please feel free to take a visitor packet home with you.

All are welcome to the Lord's Table We believe that Christ is present in the Sacrament, renewing God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

- Thank you to Bev Boyd for purchasing this morning's choir music in memory of Rod Boyd.

**Please place the hymnals in the racks in back of the pews, following worship.
No food or beverages allowed in the sanctuary. Thank you.*

The Week Ahead. . .		
Monday		
Tuesday	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	CoDA Joy & Praise Choirs AA
Wednesday	6:00pm 6:45pm 7:30pm	Soup/Sandwich Supper & 5-8 Choir Worship Worship Choir
Thursday	8:00pm	AA
Friday		
Saturday	7:30am	Men's Breakfast-Feed Mill Restaurant
Sunday	8:30am 9:00am 10:15am	Coffee Fellowship Worship Education Hour

First Reading

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."

Second Reading

Romans 4:13–25

That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God’s decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad *contract!* That’s not a holy promise; that’s a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a *promise*—and God’s promise at that—you can’t break it.

This is why the fulfillment of God’s promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God’s promise arrives as pure gift. That’s the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions *and* those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that’s reading the story backward. He is our *faith* father.

We call Abraham “father” not because he got God’s attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn’t that what we’ve always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, “I set you up as father of many peoples”? Abraham was first named “father” and then *became* a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he *couldn’t* do but on what God said he *would* do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, “You’re going to have a big family, Abraham!”

Abraham didn’t focus on his own impotence and say, “It’s hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.” Nor did he survey Sarah’s decades of infertility and give up. He didn’t tiptoe around God’s promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. That’s why it is said, “Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right.” But it’s not just Abraham; it’s also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us *right with God*.

Gospel

Mark 8:31–38

Jesus began explaining to them: “It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive.” He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it.

But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. “Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works.”

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?

“If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”

Hope Lutheran Church

February 25, 2018

Second Sunday of Lent

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's trust in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.



9:00 Worship

10:15 Education

Pastor: Steve Thompson

Coordinator of Shared Ministry: Sarah Gavert

Office Manager: Angie Newton

Council President: Curt Wicklund

Phone: 492-2099 **Fax:** 492-6884 www.hope-jordan.org office@hope-jordan.org

We are a community of hope inviting all people into God's transformative embrace of love for the world through Jesus Christ.