

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2018



THE LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Walk with me and be trustworthy. ²I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants." ³Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴"But me, my covenant is with you; you will be the ancestor of many nations. ⁵And because I have made you the ancestor of many nations, your name will no longer be Abram but Abraham. ⁶I

will make you very fertile. I will produce nations from you, and kings will come from you. ⁷I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants' God after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, you will no longer call her Sarai. Her name will now be Sarah. ¹⁶I will bless her and even give you a son from her. I will bless her so that she will become nations, and kings of peoples will come from her."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 22:23-31

²³All of you who revere the LORD—praise him! All of you who are Jacob's descendants—honor him! All of you who are all Israel's offspring—stand in awe of him!

²⁴**Because he didn't despise or detest the suffering of the one who suffered—he didn't hide his face from me. No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.**

²⁵I offer praise in the great congregation because of you;

I will fulfill my promises in the presence of those who honor God.

²⁶Let all those who are suffering eat and be full! Let all who seek the LORD praise him! I pray your hearts live forever!

²⁷**Every part of the earth will remember and come back to the LORD; every family among all the nations will worship you.**

²⁸Because the right to rule belongs to the LORD, he rules all nations.

²⁹**Indeed, all the earth's powerful will worship him; all who are descending to the dust will kneel before him; my being also lives for him.**

³⁰Future descendants will serve him; generations to come will be told about my Lord.

³¹**They will proclaim God's righteousness to those not yet born, telling them what God has done.**

THE EPISTLE Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. ¹⁴If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. ¹⁵The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. ¹⁶That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. ¹⁷As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence. ¹⁸When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would

become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: *That's how many descendants you will have.* ¹⁹Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead. ²⁰He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. ²¹He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. ²²Therefore it was credited to him as righteousness.

²³But the scripture that says *it was credited to him* wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. ²⁴It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

THE GOSPEL Mark 8:31-38

³¹Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." ³²He said this plainly.

But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. ³³Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

³⁴After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to

them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ³⁵All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. ³⁶Why would people gain the whole world

but lose their lives? ³⁷What will people give in exchange for their lives? ³⁸Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

CROSS MARKED



SILENT

A LITANY FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

**There was no deceit in his mouth.
Isaiah 53:9**

P Jesus was despised and rejected. He was falsely accused, yet he did not speak in his own defense or answer those who condemned him. He remained silent, like a lamb led to the slaughter, and took up his cross for our sake.

Tune..... Southwell SM

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

P We often speak out in loveless ways, out of anger and envy.

C **Lord, forgive our loveless thoughts and words. Give us speech that glorifies you.**

- P** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;
- C** **Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.** (Isaiah 53:7)
- P** Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?"
- C** **But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.** (Matthew 27:13-14)
- P** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.
- C** **When he was reviled, he did not revile in return;**
- P** When he suffered, he did not threaten.
- C** **But continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.** (1 Peter 2:22-23)
- P** Lord, lead us to walk in love as you walked, so that our words and actions will be a blessing to others.
- C** **Fill us with words of comfort, hope and life to share with the world.**

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

Bible Readings for the Second Week of Lent

Sunday.....	Isaiah 53:7-9
Monday.....	Romans 12:14-18
Tuesday.....	James 3:7-10
Wednesday.....	Colossians 3:16-17
Thursday.....	Ephesians 4:29-32
Friday.....	Matthew 27:11-14
Saturday.....	1 Peter 2:21-25

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