

Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish
Order of Sunday Worship- Second Sunday in Lent– February 25th, 2024
At Salem Lutheran Church

Prelude

Emily Larson, Musician

Welcome/Announcements

Invocation:

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Opening Prayer:

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray that You would open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. **C: Amen.**

Hymn:

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Concordia #193

Confession of Sin:

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kyrie:

“Gathered in your Peace we Pray”

1. Gathered in your peace, we pray: **Grant your mercy, holy Lord.**

For our shattered world, this day: **Grant your mercy, holy Lord.**

Give us peace upon our way: **Grant your mercy, holy Lord.**

2. For the Church, your wounded Bride: **Grant your mercy, Jesus Christ.**

Heal, restore her to your side: **Grant your mercy, Jesus Christ.**

Take away her sin and pride: **Grant your mercy, Jesus Christ.**

3. For your people, saved by grace: **Grant your mercy, holy God.**

Make of us one holy race: **Grant your mercy, holy God.**

'Til we see you face to face: **Grant your mercy, holy God.**

Absolution:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. To those who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord unto us all.

C: Amen.

Gloria:

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray together.

C: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made and 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. Amen.

Psalm-22:23-31

First Reading- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Second Reading- Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Reading- Mark 8:31-38

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: God be praised for his glad tidings!

Apostles Creed

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Children's Message – “Jesus Loves Me”

Offering and Offertory: *We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift might be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.*

Hymn:

“Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Concordia #86

Sermon

Pastor Lexy Carson

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

There's an advertisement that keeps on popping up on my browsers constantly, it's for a travel agency called Pack Up and Go and I don't know if I just fit the age or stereotype of their clientele or what but they consistently advertise to me so one day I gave in. I followed the pestering link to see what it was all about.

And I discovered very quickly this travel agency surely was not for me. The whole idea of this company is summed up simply and nicely in their slogan “Let us plan your vacation! The catch? Your destination is a surprise!”

Excuse me? A planned vacation but I don't have any control over where I'm going, no way. I hate humidity. I could end up in Florida, my husband hates the heat he'd die if we landed a surprise vacation to Arizona.

I mean clearly this is the dream for some people, a nice planned out vacation, you don't have to do any of the work and oh what a fun surprise the day off to find out where you are going.

But that's a hard no for me personally. I think part of why I personally struggled with the thought of this travel agency model is because I know just how captive my will is. How deeply I want my will to be done. How stuck I am in my own desires, even how stuck I am to the things I hate in life like bugs and humidity. I mean come on I'd take a 40 below day zero with no mosquitoes over a muggy day sitting next to an alligator as my skin is itching from all the mosquito bites any day.

All of this is to say, maybe your will is a little bit less captive than my own and this pack up and go wherever they choose to send you sounds more appealing, but I bet each of you can certainly relate to wanting things to pan out the way you'd like.

This surely was the case for Peter in our Gospel passage from Mark, this is only Mark 8 and Jesus starts plainly and openly laying out what is going to happen to him. That he is going to suffer to be rejected by the Jews themselves, by the elders, the chief priests and he doesn't say it here but even by Peter himself, that he will be killed and rise again.

And how does Peter respond to Jesus? He pulls him aside and starts rebuking him, telling Jesus Christ himself to be quiet. That's enough no way, Jesus this is not the way. That's not how this is going to pane out because I don't want it to. That's not my desire, that is not my prayer, that is not what I am banking on, that is not my will being done. Because if that is what's going to happen to you, what does that mean for me? If you're going to be killed by the Jews, what hope does that leave me? It means I'm going to die. And that is not my prayer, that is not my will being done.

So what is Son of Man to do with Peter? With the one who rebukes him, who rebukes God's own will? Well they start a nice little rebuking war, like a nice little ping pong match, rebuking back and forth. No you be quiet, no you be quiet!

But the champion of rebuking, Jesus will surely get the last word. He turns to Peter, rebukes him and says "Get behind me, Satan!" Which you know out of all the names or titles Jesus can give you, this absolutely the lowest. I mean there's nothing more demeaning or jaw dropping than your Savior turning to you, rebuking you and calling you Satan himself.

That is how captive, stuck and bound are wills are to what we desire, what we long for and just how close those desires are to being sin itself. I mean Peter rebukes Christ, for saying he doesn't want him to die, Peter himself doesn't want to die. Does that seem so bad? Peter's desire is for life, for Christ to live and save his own skin? Is that desire, that longing so wrong? Our world would say absolutely not, how could life be wrong, how could wanting someone to live lead to angry Jesus calling them satan.

What is so wrong with Peter's desire, what is so wrong with his will? The problem is that it is not God's Will. Therefore, Peter's will, while on the surface and by our worldly standard doesn't seem so bad, it is 100% sin itself, it is 100% the devil speaking. Because it is 100% contrary to God's Word.

Jesus just said he was going to be killed by the elders, the chief priest to be put death and rise again and Peter says no, shut up Jesus. That is not my will.

Our human concerns as Jesus calls it cannot even begin to fathom what God is up to, what his will is. But we certainly know that our will, is not his will. Our human concerns on a daily basis are about whether the roads are icy or not, what we will make for supper, whether the Vikings will renew Kirk Cousins contract. These are our human concerns and what we are captive and bound to.

And ultimately, we are bound to our own desires, like protecting the lives of those we care for, even Jesus' life. Just as it was for Peter. And that desire goes against God's own will, where he says I will die and we say no don't let it be true we take the form of the devil himself. Anytime we doubt God's word, did he say? Because it doesn't sound like what I want to hear. We are 100% just like that serpent in the garden, planting of seed of doubt, of unbelief.

So where does this leave you? I'm sure at some point in your life you have prayed with all your might against God's will as the evidence of sickness, of disease of looming death weighed on your doorstep and you said God please don't let it be. Please let this desire for life, of my will of my longing win.

So what hope does this leave you, if Jesus's own beloved Peter is rebuked and called satan it might seem a little bleak for you. Except, fortunately for you Peter's will was not done, Jesus truly did get the last rebuking word, all that Jesus said that Peter hated with his might and will came to fruition. Jesus was killed and he did rise again. For you, for your will that is so captive and stuck in your desires. To free you from it just as he did with Peter.

Once again, that slogan for that travel agency I'm proud spokesperson for was "Let us plan your vacation! The catch? Your destination is a surprise!"

Well Jesus went to the cross and rose again so there would be no catch. And absolutely no surprises about your final destination.

Jesus's word, his will was absolute, complete and true unlike Peter's will or yours or mine. And thank God for that, because if it was my will who knows where the final destination would be.

Jesus Christ's will is done and his will for you is death into new life, an eternal destination with him in his kingdom. God's will is done, in the name of Jesus Christ all of your sins are forgiven.

The peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding guards your hearts and minds in Christ. Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: *"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"* Concordia #182

Prayer of the Church: Each prayer will end: Lord, in your mercy. *C: Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

C: We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do. P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give praise to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God through Jesus

Christ our Lord. You call your people to repent of sin and prepare for the joy of the paschal feast, Renews us in faith and holiness and bring us into the fullness of your grace and truth that belongs to the children of God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name; evermore praising you and singing:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Invitation/Distribution

Thanksgiving-

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

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you Lord God almighty that you have refreshed us with these gifts; and we ask you, in your mercy, to strengthen us through these same gifts in faith toward you and in fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Now may the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace.

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Doxology

C: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God! Postlude**