

**February 18, 2018**

**Lent 1**

Usher: Joe Ireland

Acolyte: Mason K.



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## PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 25:1-7

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. <sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. <sup>3</sup> Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. <sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. <sup>6</sup> Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

## ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN: TLH #159**

**“Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace

to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**G** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### INTROIT

*Ps. 91:9-13; 15-16*

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*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

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- P** “When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.”
- G** “With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.”
- P** Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, Who is my refuge—
- G** No evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.
- P** For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
- G** On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.
- P** You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

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*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

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- P** Let us pray. ... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

**EPISTLE READING – James 1:12-18** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**GOSPEL READING – Mark 1:9-15** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

**P** This is the Word of the LORD.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles' Creed*

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*The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.*

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I believe in God the Father almighty, maker 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

**✠ INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS ✠**

**HYMN: TLH #446:1-2, 5-6** "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

**SERMON – Genesis 22:1-18** After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day

Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." <sup>15</sup> And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

## **Look from Moriah to Calvary**

- I. See a father's willing sacrifice
- II. See a son's unquestioning obedience
- III. See a substitute which was offered



1. *The Lamb, the Lamb,  
O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes  
God will provide the Lamb of price!  
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes  
me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

2. *The Lamb, the Lamb,  
One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb,  
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
Worthy is the Lamb...*

5. *He rose, He rose,  
My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong  
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.  
Worthy is the Lamb...*

3. *The Lamb, the Lamb,  
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will  
On our behalf the Law to fill.  
Worthy is the Lamb...*

4. *He sighs, he dies,  
He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives,  
He gives me His own  
righteousness.  
Worthy is the Lamb...*



- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

PRAYER, LORD’S PRAYER, and BENEEDICTION

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C** *♫ Amen, amen, a – men.*

✠ Announcements ✠

Midweek Lenten Services

started last week Wednesday at 6:30pm. This Lent we’ll be using the theme, “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who endured the cross.” Lenten services are not “optional”, just as no worship service is “required.” Rather, as

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ **Feb. 21:** Midweek Lenten service at 6:30pm
- ✠ **Feb. 25:** Orlando Service 8am
- ✠ **Mar. 10:** Parsonage Roof
- ✠ **Mar. 11:** Megan Baby Shower
- ✠ **Mar. 17:** Church Work Day

redeemed children of God, we are given the wonderful opportunity to focus this Lenten season on the very reason for Christ's death and the result of His passion. Midweek services are a great opportunity to hear the joyful truths found in God's Word. Please come and join us this Wednesday night at 6:30pm.

**Last Week (2/11)** Attendance: WH – 43 Orlando – 12 Wed. – 18  
General = \$1,065 | Building Fund = \$30 | Petty Cash = \$25  
**Total Offering = \$1,095**

**February Usher: Ireland | Acolyte (2/25): Mason G.  
| Cleaner (2/24): Ream**

**Cover Art:** *The Lord Provides* (1991) by Yvonne Benzinger. Used with permission.

**From the CLC Committee of Domestic Fields:** The thought of strengthening is certainly not foreign to the Bible. Most biblical examples involve strengthening through personal interaction. Think of Moses' relationship with Joshua as an example. Near the time of Moses' death, God told him:

*But charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he will give them as an inheritance the land which you will see. (Deuteronomy 3:28)*

What's interesting is that in most cases an individual was strengthened before or during a difficult task, as it was with Joshua. It's important to recognize this in light of a desire to become more mission-minded. Evangelism is a difficult task. It takes work, and so we need the strength that comes from the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit, which is often brought by the encouraging words of our fellow Christians.

In light of this, it is important for us to remember as church leaders, or ordinary Christians, that in order to become mission-minded, we can begin by encouraging each other in Christ. Think of Moses. Although God kept Moses from crossing over the Jordan, He still provided an opportunity for Moses to serve, by strengthening the next leader. We can also encourage our fellow Christians to use their gifts of evangelism, teaching, and the like, even if we are not called to the same type of outreach work, and even if the Lord's calling for us is not what we expect.

By faith in the work of His Son, Jesus, we have confidence that God will strengthen us for the task of sharing His Word, as David wrote: *O Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will **strengthen** their heart, You will incline your ear... (Psalm 10:17)*

Like with many things we often are our own barriers. We might say, “I don’t know how to do this,” or “I don’t have the gifts to be able to help someone else in this way.” Let us also remember the words of the Apostle Paul:

*And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)*

May we boldly step forward in the grace of God, using our witness of His Word to strengthen the work of the souls in our congregation and abroad; trusting in the faithfulness of our Lord to take our feeble attempts and demonstrate His strength in our work!

**Mission-minded examples:** What opportunities has God presented to you for strengthening other people? Try to build your discernment by following these steps:

1. Take a few minutes to visit with someone after church. It will show that you care about their life and through communication you will better understand how you can help strengthen them in their faith.
2. Look for ways you can help those in need. Perhaps it’s offering assistance to the young parent struggling with little kids in the church pew. Maybe it’s visiting an elderly person who is lonely. Or, it could be mentoring a teen by taking them out to eat or listening to their ideas about how they can plugin to church work. There are plenty of ways to strengthen people without having to directly teach the Word of God. Keep your eyes open for opportunities that God may be giving you!



*The **Committee of Domestic Fields** is a subcommittee of the CLC Mission Board. “The purpose of the CDF is to make outreach ideas and material available to CLC congregations and to encourage them in carrying out the Great Commission of our Savior Jesus Christ.”*