A weathered stone cross is mounted on a red wall. The cross is made of rough, grey stone and shows signs of age and wear, with a prominent crack running down the center of the vertical beam. The background is a textured red wall, and a portion of a grey stone pillar is visible on the left side of the frame.

*Those  
who lose  
their  
life*

*for my  
sake  
will  
save it*

MARK 8:35

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at*

*[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Norma Shue, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**

**PRELUDE**

*Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

James Abbington

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**LITANY FOR LENT**

Leader:

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

You are our eternal hope;

you are patient and full of mercy;

you are generous to all who call upon you.

Assembly

Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness,  
 you have taken away our sins.  
 On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions  
 and were bruised for our iniquities.  
**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, obedient unto death,  
 source of all comfort, our life and resurrection,  
 our peace and reconciliation:  
**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,  
 hope of all who die in you, and joy of all the saints:  
**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

Leader Assembly Leader

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus,

Assembly

bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Leader

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,

Assembly

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: Taizé Community, alt. *Book of Common Worship*. © 1975, 1993 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

### READING

**Romans 4:13-25 (back page)**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### VERSE

*Sung by the cantor*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -  
ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Text: Joel 2:13

Music: Anne Krentz Organ

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## HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 8:31-31 (back page)**

The Holy Gospel according to .... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

*Stand*

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

*Continued on next page...*

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Merciful Father,**  
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS Sung by the cantor. Congregation joins at C



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**FRACTION RITE** *A brief silence is kept.*



**AGNUS DEI** *Sung by cantor, women, all*

*Cantor:*




Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

*Women:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

*All:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men

*Sit* The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

**COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

**Stand**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

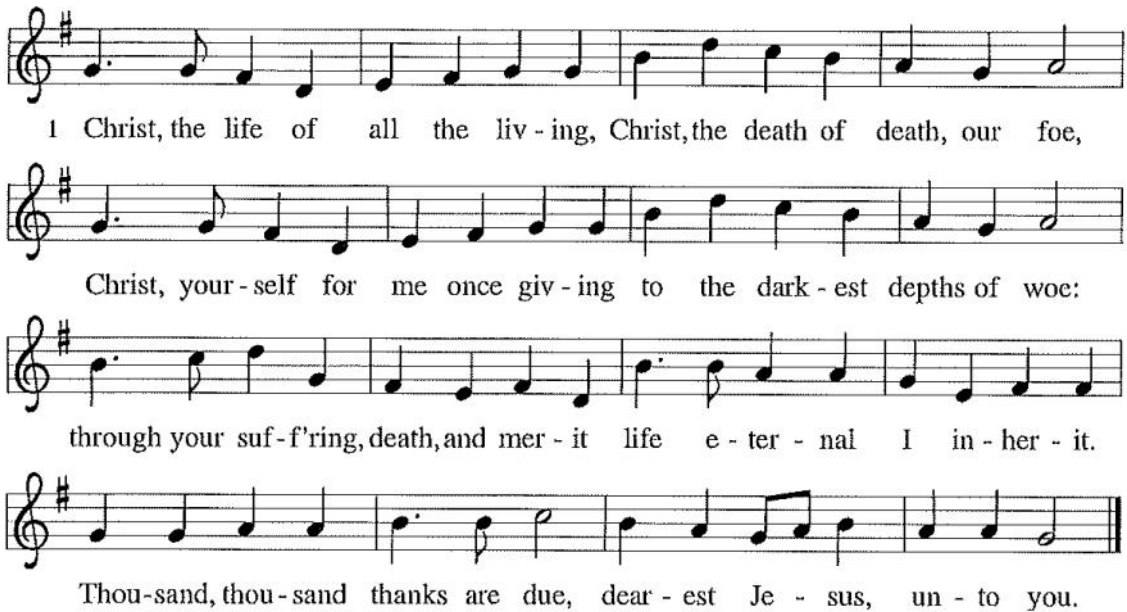
Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## HYMN

### *Christ, the Life of all the Living (LBW 97) stanza 1*



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Oh, Freedom*

Adolphus Hailstork

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.*

*Feel free to gather outside for conversation.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*



Easter Flowers

**Easter Flower order forms are available at all doors and are due March 15th. Flowers are \$12.00 Please make check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and leave form and payment for the church secretary or in the offering plate.**

### STAFF

Pastor  
Youth Director  
Organist, Choir Director  
Bookkeeper  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Preschool Director

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Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

***In our prayers we remember...***

**Sandra Farcht, Earline Jones, Wayne Wagner, Sandy Dickensheets, Sue Kopp, Jannette Guetersloh, Oonagh Newman, Jenny Zimmerman, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey**

**New Members Class** begins next Sunday. They will meet during the month of March at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in uniting with our faith community please notify the church office. Masks and physical distancing will be practiced during the four sessions.

**Bible Study In-person** Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. We will spend most of our time during the Lenten Season on the epistle reading for the up-coming Sunday. Wednesday, March 3 we will study 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

**2021 Offering booklets** are available in the lobby on Springettsbury Ave. Please deliver booklets to those who are staying at home or who do not have transportation. Thank you.

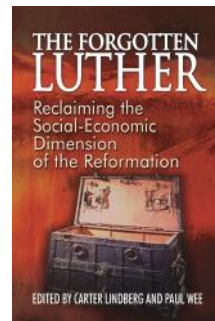
**Food Pantry—March**

**Items needed:** Canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

**Lenten Wednesday Evenings led by Pastor William Snyder  
The Forgotten Luther, edited by Carter Lindberg and Paul Wee  
March 3, 10, 17, 24 7:00-8:00 PM**

We often forget how frequently Luther called for reform in the social and economic dimensions of life, which he saw as a natural outgrowth of theology and love of neighbor. The book, *The Forgotten Luther*, will be the jumping off point for our discussion. Reading the book is optional. We will consider such topics as: the common chest; the danger of greed; subversion when called forth; creating new vision in the world. We will take the opportunity to examine together many social issues that challenge us in these times. Contact Patty Snyder 717-578-2253 to register and receive the Zoom link.



**CREATE**—CREATE will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Ages 2 through grade 1 will be held 6:00pm till 6:30pm. Grades 2 through Grade 6 will be 6:45pm through 7:15pm.

Each participant will receive a group of packets, each containing all the supplies that are needed for the designated weekly lesson. The Zoom sessions will include Bible Stories, Church Seasons, Holidays, Crafts and Art Projects. You can also do these sessions on your own with your children. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of CREATE Zoom. Miss Kelly



Tuesday night Miss Kelly gathered the youth of the congregation through the technological wonder of Zoom. She invited me to join in. There they were, appearing in separate blocks across my computer screen, the happy familiar faces of the children of our faith community. Their presence brought delight as they rigorously engaged in the activity described by Miss Kelly.

This week it was Lenten prayer crosses. Each one taking up his or her cross and emblazing it with images and words of things for which they need help during these days of lent. For some it was being more loving, more forgiving, for others it was remembering to be kind, some hinted at the power of generosity and still others fashioned hearts reminiscent of Valentine's Day with the words of Psalm 51 "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

With Zoom Miss Kelly touched the lives of the children reminding them of the love of God, the persistence of God's grace in Jesus, and the centrality of the cross which brings to bear our salvation through Christ. The computer screen was filled with blocks depicting children deep in concentration as they forged ahead on their projects. Each child was at work independently taking up the cross as it made sense for him or her crafting prayers for help on their Lenten journey.

In the gospel reading Peter didn't quite grasp the reason for taking up the cross. He actually takes Jesus aside and tries in an attempt to get Jesus to stop talking about suffering, death and resurrection. At this point Peter isn't able to grasp how Jesus will forever touch the lives of men, women and children reminding them of the love of God, the persistence of God's grace being made known through Jesus, and the centrality of the cross which will bring to bear salvation for all of humanity. But it is Peter who receives the rebuke that day when he is compared to Satan for wanting to squelch the passion prediction and the journey to Jerusalem where the gospel story unfolds in all of its unsavoriness with suffering and death.

The Apostle Paul is writing to the young church, newly formed and shaped, in Rome. Rome was the technological center in the New Testament world. Rome was diverse, religiously pluralistic, politically aware, and highly cosmopolitan. Paul addressed them in a letter. He is separated from them but wants to be connected to them. He stresses the relationship of creation to its Creator and Lord. He offers the young Christian community guidance through teaching and preaching and through their personal lives. Theology is of primary concern; how these ones who are new to faith make sense of God and God's righteousness bestowed through Christ. Paul uses the familiar figure of Abraham to connect the Jewish and the Gentile believers. He draws on the faith of Abraham and what the present community can learn from him.

Good old Abraham. "He did not weaken in faith." We sometime forget that his faith sustained him through decades of waiting for an heir, a son, Isaac. "No distrust made him waver concerning that God was able to do what God had promised." And then long about a decade after he receives his promised son we encounter the story of Isaac being bound up for a sacrifice. And once again Abraham's obedience in faith is greeted with the Lord God providing a ram to be used as an appropriate sacrifice, freeing Isaac from the

cords that bound him. It was such faith that Abraham modeled that “God reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Christ Jesus, the Apostle Paul writes, is the appropriate sacrifice, freeing us who are bound with the cords of sin and death. It is through faith that we are put right, freed from all that holds us captive, through the gracious outpouring of God’s love in Christ Jesus. It is Christ who justifies us, who sets us right, who establishes a relationship with us. Such faith was not written for Abraham alone, but for us also. Faith “will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.” For Paul, faith in Jesus was what God required. Or Paul might say that we learn from Abraham faith requires obedience to God as Lord.

Faith and obedience, justification and righteousness, grace and mercy, Pastor there are too many theological themes going on here! Yes there are. And that was at the heart of Paul’s letter to the church at Rome. Theology matters. What we think and say and do and how we make sense of God’s outpoured love for us and all humanity is shaping life. It is shaping your life and my life and the neighborhood and the inhabitants of the earth. It shapes relationships with whom we work and how we engage and why we choose to spend time and money and energy. Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania, St. Paul’s Food Pantry and St. Paul’s Preschool. For practicing Christians the relationship of creation to its Creator and Lord is serious business.

Theology is a primary concern. The Apostle Paul doesn’t want the young church newly forming in Rome with all of its diversity, religious plurality, political consciousness, and decidedly international complexion to assume things about Christian faith and life. Paul wants them to know the importance of taking up the cross. So Paul addressed them in a letter. (The mail then may have been faster than what we are currently experiencing.) But he takes time to write a letter and send it. While he is separated from them he wants to be connected through any available means so that he can touch the lives of their faith community reminding them of the love of God, the persistence of God’s grace in Jesus, and the centrality of the cross which brings to bear salvation through Christ. The letter to the church at Rome is filled with paragraphs depicting the importance of deep faith as those young Christians concentrate and forge ahead on their work and witness. Paul’s desire seems to be that each one needs to be strengthened so the faith community bears witness to the cross of Christ giving shape for their journey.

Just so, you are important to God. God’s desire is for you to engage through faith, for you to be strengthened through your participation in the faith community by hearing again the story; that Peter wanted to rebuke, and Paul wanted to write, and Miss Kelly shared with our children through Zoom, That Jesus must undergo great suffering, be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Taking up the cross and the message of life and salvation through Christ Jesus takes faith. Paul’s word to the young church at Rome and his word for us this morning, remember Father Abraham and his unwavering faith trusting God’s promise. Amen.



**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. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>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."

**Psalm 22:23-31****SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

<sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."