



## Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024  
From Suffering to Hope

### As We Gather

Today we hear the apostle Paul proclaim something rather odd: that we can rejoice in our sufferings. Paul says this because—as he tells us—suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because our hope is in Jesus who died and is risen for us and our reconciliation and peace. That is something to rejoice in!

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

- P** Our Lenten journey continues toward the cross.  
**C** **It is a journey marked with suffering,**  
**P** but suffering produces endurance.  
**C** **Endurance produces character.**  
**P** Character produces hope,  
**C** **and hope in Christ does not put us to shame.**

### Confession and Absolution

- P** Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ's death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father grants us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** **we have not rejoiced in suffering but have given up easily. We have lacked integrity and acted shamefully. And we have even despaired of life itself. Have mercy upon us, and reconcile us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.**  
**P** At just the right time, while we were still weak and ungodly, Jesus Christ died for us and reconciled us to God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen. We are forgiven and are at peace with God.**

### Introit

*Psalm 115:11–13, 18; antiphon: Psalm 25:6*

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!  
He is their help and their shield.  
The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;  
he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

he will bless those who fear the LORD,  
both the small and the great.

We will bless the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

**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.**

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Epistle

*Romans 5:1–11*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Creed

*Nicene Creed*

- C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, be mercifully present among all those who suffer, leading them to the hope that is only in You.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, soften our hearts to all those we would proclaim as our enemies. Remind us that we are weak and ungodly. Bring to our remembrance that You have died for all people. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, on the cross You took on our pain and punishment and death. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially...*]. Comfort them with the profound reality that You not only died but rose from death and will raise us from the dead on the Last Day to eternal life. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, bring Your strength and hope to all those who struggle with mental illness. Help them find the support they need. Remove the stigma around mental illness from our churches and communities. To all those in deepest need, bring Your peace and joy. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, grant that the nations and peoples of the world might live in peace. Put an end to all violence and war. Lead us to be the first to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering... Have mercy upon them and lead them out of their suffering to hope. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**C** and I will praise Thee without end.
- P** Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Offering

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Prayer

**P** Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.  
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