

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday in Lent – February 25, 2024**

Responsive Call to Worship – PWS&D Lenten Liturgy



Second Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. John Bannerman (PWS&D Committee Co-Convenor)

One: On this second Sunday of Lent, we hear Jesus teaching about the suffering and rejection that he would endure on his way to the cross.

All: **Like Peter, we resist this teaching.
We prefer an easier way without struggle and suffering.**

One: But Jesus does not hold back. He tells us that to become his followers we need to deny ourselves and take up our cross.

All: **May God help us as we learn more of what it means
to be friends and followers of Jesus.**



THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Hymn 411 Stand up and bless the Lord

**1. Stand up and bless the Lord;
God's people now rejoice;**

**stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart and soul and voice.**

**2. Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear God's holy name,
and praise and magnify?**

**3. Oh for the living flame
from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought.**

**4. God is our strength and song;
now is salvation ours.
God's love in Christ we now proclaim
with all our ransomed powers.**

**5. Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless God's glorious name
henceforth forevermore.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 675 **Precious Lord take my hand**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Forgiving God, we do not readily open our hearts to others who are different from us. We want to follow the example set by Jesus to love everyone, but we fear the unknown and scared that we might lose ourselves. We fail so often to share your unconditional love with others. Forgive us, Lord, and remind us of Jesus' sacrificial love for us and all humanity. Strengthen us where we are weak, that we may faithfully respond to your call to love one another as you have loved us. Make us channels of your peace and people, who will build your kingdom of love and justice.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer **(Debts/Debtors)**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon *(minister)*

Hymn 211 **Take up your cross**

- 1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if my disciple you would be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.**
- 2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill frightened spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.**
- 3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel:
for you the Saviour bore the cross,
to save your soul from death and hell.**
- 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and every danger calmly brave;
'twill guide you to a heavenly home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.**
- 5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

Responsive Reading **Psalm 22:23-31p. 473 NT & Psalms**

²³Praise the Lord, all you who fear him!

Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob!

Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

**²⁴For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the
needy.**

**He has not turned his back on them,
but has listened to their cries for help.**

²⁵I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

²⁶The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the Lord will praise him.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

²⁷The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.

All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

²⁸For royal power belongs to the Lord.

He rules all the nations.

²⁹Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who are mortal,

all whose lives will end as dust.

³⁰Our children will also serve him.

Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

³¹His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 p. 12 pew Bible

Romans 4:13-25 p. 262 New Testament & Psalms

Mark 8:31-38 p. 77 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon How does that make sense?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 569 O Jesus, I have promised

**1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the struggle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**2. Oh let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.**

**My foes are ever near me,
around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**3. Oh let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
oh speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be,
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
oh give me grace to follow
my Saviour and my friend.**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

**Generous God, you have blessed our lives with diverse gifts
and peoples. We pause with grateful hearts to offer you gifts
of money that you have provided for us. We also give you
our hands, our feet, our voices, our time, and our abilities.
Use all that we are along with these gifts to spread your love
throughout the world. Amen.**

Hymn Nearer, my God, to thee

Choral Blessing

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

**God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude