

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Lent 1 - February 21, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #528 - "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"**

**Christ is our cornerstone;  
On him alone we build.  
With his true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On his great love our hopes we place  
Of present grace and joys above.**

**Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring!  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim in joyful song,  
Both loud and long, that glorious name.**

**Here, gracious God, do now  
And evermore draw near;  
Accept each faithful vow  
And all your children hear,  
And more and more on those who pray  
Each holy day your blessing pour.**

**Here may we gain from heav'n  
The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n,  
Be with us evermore  
Until that day when all the blest  
To endless rest are called away!**

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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 in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-18**

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "I am here." God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you." Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?" He said, "I am here, my son." He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. The Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" Abraham said, "I am here." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the

ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place “The Lord Will Provide.” So it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.” The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “I have sworn by myself, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” (EHV)

### **Psalm 6**

**Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O LORD, do not rebuke me in your ‘anger  
Or discipline me ‘in your wrath.**

**Be merciful to me, LORD, for ‘I am faint;  
O LORD, heal me, for my soul is in ‘anguish.**

**Turn, O LORD, and de’liver me;  
Save me because of your un’failing love.**

**Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**I am worn out from ‘groaning.  
My eyes grow weak with ‘sorrow.**

**Away from me, all you who do ‘evil,  
For the LORD has heard my ‘weeping.**

**The LORD has heard my cry for ‘mercy;  
The LORD ac’cepts my prayer.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son  
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,  
As it was in the be’ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

**Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Second Lesson: Romans 8:31-39**

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him? Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

**Gospel: Mark 1:12-15**

The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. "The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel." (EHV)

**The Apostles' Creed:**

**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.

Hymn #579 - "*Lift High the Cross*"

Refrain:

Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.  
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.  
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory.  
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

The Sermon:      Romans 8:31-39  
                          "God's Love Conquers Through The Cross"

History tells us that in the year 312, **Constantine**, the Emperor of Rome, was engaged in a **battle**. And during that battle he saw a **sign** in the sky - a flaming **cross**. On the cross were written these words: "*With **this** sign you will **conquer**.*" The emperor immediately ordered that the symbol on the shields of his **army** would be **changed** - from an **eagle** to a **cross** - and we're told that the next day Constantine's army won a great **victory**. The Emperor was so affected by this event, that later he became a **Christian**, and he proceeded to make **Christianity** a **legal** religion in the empire, instead of an **outlawed** one.

The **cross** of Jesus Christ is truly a power that **conquers**. It **conquers** because the love of **God** is seen in the cross, as God **used** a cross to **save** us from our **sins**, and to pledge His **continuing** love to meet all our **needs**. During the

season of **Lent** we see the battles our **Lord Jesus** fought and **won** against the **devil**. We **also** see the battles of faith which **we**, through the **strength** of Jesus, fight and win - battles against the **devil**, against the **world** around us, and against our own **doubts** and **fears**. Today's sermon text brings out the victorious power of Jesus' love better than any other. It gives us the certainty that **God's Love Conquers Through The Cross**.

God displayed His **love** for us on the hill of **Calvary**. He didn't spare His own **Son**, but instead He freely offered that Son as a **sacrifice** for the benefit of **all people**. God the Father allowed His Son to take **our** place - to suffer and die to pay for **our** sins. We had earned God's holy and consuming **punishment** for ourselves because of our sins. But God loved us **so much** that He punished His holy and sinless **Son** in our place. God allowed **nails** to be driven through Jesus' hands and feet, so we would be **forgiven**, and **spared** from that punishment. God didn't **hold back**, but rather, He gave us the **best** He had - He gave us **His Son** to be our Savior.

This act of love is the **foundation** for **everything** that God does for us. It gives us the **assurance** that God will not **fail** us when it comes to all the **other** matters we face in life. There are many things which rise to **importance** in our lives - things which become our **cares** and **concerns**. As those things **arise**, we want **help** for them. It might be a troubled **marriage**, or perhaps our **income** isn't covering what we're **spending**. Maybe it's an issue with our **children** or **grandchildren**. Maybe it's dealing with a serious **illness**, or a destructive **habit**. Maybe we need a **job** and we just can't seem to **find** one. These are certainly **important** matters. And there are times when we **wonder** whether the help we **need** will ever **come**. But as our **text** says, "*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also graciously give us **all things** along with him?*" If God came through on the most **important** matter of our life - our eternal **salvation** - then He most certainly will come through on all the **lesser** things in our lives as well.

God loved us enough to **save** us from sin and death, so we never need to **doubt** His love and His continual **care** for us. God already invested His **Son** in us, so He's not going to start **cutting back** on His love now. With the same love which He showed at **Calvary**, God will continue to provide us with **everything** we need. Let's take God at His **Word**, and **throw away** all of our earthly **cares** and **concerns**.

Once again our text tells us, “*Who will bring an **accusation** against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies! Who is the one who **condemns**? Christ Jesus, who **died** and, more than that, was raised to **life**, is the one who is at God’s right hand and who is also **interceding** for us.*” Who **accuses** us, and **condemns** us? Satan does. He’s a **fallen angel** who seeks to **destroy** all the **good** things which God has done. As he tries to destroy our **relationship** with God, he **tempts** us to **disobey** God’s Word. He **acts** like our **friend**, and tries to tell us that by following his advice we’ll be much **happier**. All too often, in our **weakness**, we fall **victim** to his lies, and we **sin**. But Satan doesn’t **stop** there with us. After we **sin** he takes us to **court** and **accuses** us of being **shameful**, and deserving **condemnation**. His accusations strike **fear** into our hearts - the fear of spending an eternity in **hell**.

But whatever accusations the devil brings up in court, they won’t **hold up**, because **God** is the **judge**, and God **justifies** us through **Jesus**. He declares us to be **not guilty**. None of the charges will be held against **us**, because they were all held against **Jesus**. When He died on the **cross**, He suffered the **punishment** which **we** deserved. And not only **that**, but when Jesus **rose** from the dead, He proved that our sins have been paid for in **full**. And Jesus is now sitting at God’s right hand, continually **interceding** for us.

We never need to be **afraid** that we have done something which is **unforgivable**. We never need to be **afraid** that some sin from long ago will finally **catch up** with us and **condemn** us. We have **Jesus**, and we know that, “*There is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” Satan cannot overpower us, because **Jesus** came, and with His death on the **cross** He **destroyed** Satan’s power. **God’s Love Conquers** all our fears.

In fact, **God’s Love Conquers everything**. Again, Paul tells us, “*What will **separate** us from the **love** of Christ? Will **trouble** or **distress** or **persecution** or **famine** or **nakedness** or **danger** or **sword**? Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to **death** all day long. We are considered as sheep to be **slaughtered**. No, in **all these things** we are **more than conquerors** through him who **loved** us.*” Every day we face many **enemies**, who try to **separate** us from Jesus. **Satan** stands at the **top** of the list. **Government** officials and **radical groups** in our society **persecute** Christians. They **cancel** them, and in some cases even threaten to **kill** them if they don’t fall in line and **reject Jesus**. Godlessness is found **everywhere** - in **entertainment**, and **politics**, and even in the **classrooms** of our public schools. There are events happening in our world today which have the **potential** to undermine our **faith** in Jesus. We can’t let that happen. The Apostle Paul dealt with events which are very **similar**. In our text he mentioned “***trouble, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and sword,***” as well as “***death and***

*slaughter.*” These are all **evils** which **try** to pull us away from our faith in **Jesus** - but they **will not succeed**.

**Nothing** can separate us from the love of God. In fact, Paul goes on to say, *“In all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us.”* It will not be an **easy** struggle, but we will **overcome** and **conquer** all of these enemies - not with our **own** strength, but because of **God’s love** for us. God has **bonded** Himself to us with an **inseparable** bond of **love**, through His **Son**. Therefore, we can say right along with Paul, *“I am **convinced** that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to **separate** us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* **Nothing** - nothing that is happening **now**, and nothing that **will happen** in the future - **nothing** can tear us away from **God’s love in Jesus**. Jesus Himself said, *“I am the good **shepherd** ... I lay down my **life** for the sheep ... My sheep **listen** to my voice; I **know** them, and they **follow** me. I **give** them **eternal life**, and they shall **never perish**; **no one** will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is **greater than all**; **no one** can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”* That’s a **promise** - a promise which **cannot** be **broken**. **God’s love** will get us through **whoever** or **whatever** is trying to drive a **wedge** between us and Jesus, because **God’s Love Conquers Through The Cross**. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Dear Savior, Jesus Christ, we are thankful for the great gift of **love**, which You poured out for us in sacrificing **Yourself** to pay for our sins. We also thank You for the gift of **faith**, by which we receive Your redemptive work, and make it our own. Lord, it’s Your will that **no one** should perish. Therefore, give us a love for souls that will cause us to let down our nets, that we may bring in the bountiful catch of **souls** which You have prepared. Help us to tell them about the **sacrifice** You made to pay for their sins. Make us devout and able messengers of the **Gospel**, by filling us with Your **Holy Spirit**.

Through that **same** Spirit, cause the words of **salvation**, which we offer to others, to be received in **their** hearts by faith, that they **too** may know the joy and gladness that fills **our** souls. May we never become **disheartened** in our efforts to speak the Gospel to others, nor be **ashamed** to declare and defend Your name. Help us recognize and seize **every** opportunity to testify of the **only** way to salvation - **Your cross**.

**Destroy** the power of every **evil** force which works **against** the Gospel, and **remove** every **hindrance** to the swift movement of salvation's message in the world. Help us see our personal responsibility to **support** the Gospel work done by our **missionaries**, wherever they labor. Give us **generous** hearts to abundantly **share** from our earthly means to provide for their **support**, and remind us to **pray** diligently for Your **blessing** on their message. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer (Sung).**

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name;  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours  
Now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Hymn #404 - *"Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven"***

**Faith is a living pow'r from heav'n  
That grasps the promise God has giv'n,  
A trust that cannot be o'erthrown,  
Fixed heartily on Christ alone.**

**Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need  
To save or strengthen us indeed,  
Receiving grace from heaven's throne  
And humbly sharing cross and crown.**

**Faith in the Savior brings us peace  
And bids the mourner's weeping cease;  
By faith the children's place we claim  
And give all honor to one name.**

**We thank you, then, O God of heav'n,  
That you to us this faith have giv'n**

**Through mighty Word and sacrament  
To trust the one whom you have sent.**

**As you have promised, grant each soul  
Its holy faith's true end and goal:  
The blessedness no foes destroy,  
Eternal love and light and joy.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

**The Blessing:**

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

C: Amen.

**Hymn #714 - "The Lamb"**

**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.**

**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 whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**

**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 whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**

**He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, he gives me his own righteousness.**

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**

**He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong 'til ev'ry heart to him belong.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**