

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



Living the Gospel Life

February 25, 2018

Second Sunday in Lent

10:15am

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson, Interim Pastor

Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (page 14)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

**We confess that we often stray from you
and turn aside from your way.**

**We fail in love, neglect justice,
and ignore your truth.**

Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.

Create in us clean hearts

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG:**God Loved the World****ELW#323**

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

THE GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE (Sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



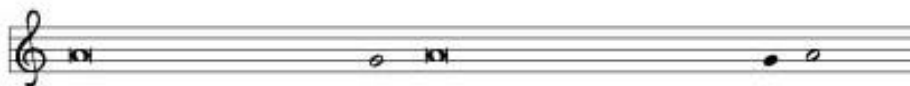
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Youth and Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD’S WORD—

FIRST READING:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When 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. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I 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.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I 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.”

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

¹³The 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For 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, ¹⁷as 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.

¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He 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. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. **Amen.**

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Return to the Lord”

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

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL:

Mark 8:31-38

³¹[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. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But 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.”

³⁴He 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. ³⁵For 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. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

P: You may be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

— **WE RESPOND** —

SERMON SONG:

Amazing Grace my chains are gone

CCLI

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

(Chorus)

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

(Chorus)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

A/P: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

- WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE -

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING:

We Are an Offering

ELW #692

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Are an Offering'. It consists of six staves of music in treble clef, 7/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes triplets and various note values. At the bottom left, it credits the text to Dwight Liles (1957) and the music to Dwight Liles (1984). At the bottom right, it is labeled 'OFFERING PM'.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.

Invitation of Communion

P: Welcome to the Lord's table.

Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

"LAMB OF GOD"

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

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

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

A: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice,
 our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
 through Christ our Lord.

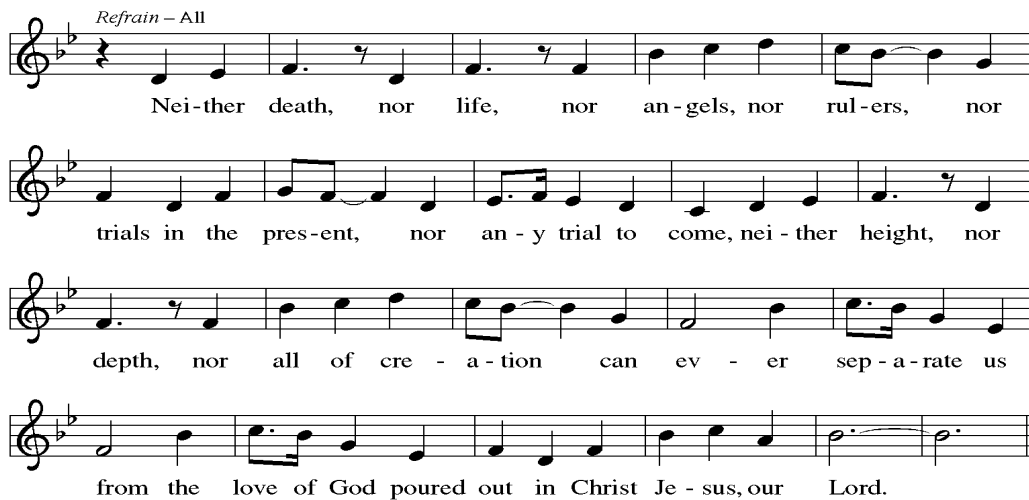
C: Amen.

-WE ARE SENT FORTH-

Benediction

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
 and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
 The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

Refrain - All



Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
trials in the pres-ent, nor an-y trial to come, nei-ther height, nor
depth, nor all of cre-a-tion can ev-er sep-a-rate us
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je-sus, our Lord.

Leader or All



1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your
2 All who are led by the Spir-it shall live as
3 All of the suf-f'ring we now must en-dure is
4 All of cre-a-tion a-waits the new birth, the
5 Who can sep-a-rate us from the love of Christ? Will
bod-y shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the
chil-dren of God, and heirs with Christ Je-sus, God's a-
noth-ing to the glo-ry so soon to be re-vealed when cre-
full-ness of re-demp-tion, through la-bor pains of love, and
hard-ship or dis-tress, per-se-cu-tion or fam-ine, or

Refrain

Spir - it who brings you to life.

dopt - ed and cho - sen and loved.

a - tion it - self is set free.

so we wait in pa - tience and hope.

na - ked - ness or per - il or sword?

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Romans 8
 Music: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, Marty Haugen
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DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Katie, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Trudy DiCarlo, Marie Koach and Shelley Amato

Prayers for Friends of the Church: (Please renew your request every 3 weeks)

✠ Henry Q., Carol's Zurick family, Susan's Perez family, Rosemarie Berglund, Sue, Edna, Michelle, Pat Falco, Frank & Marie Mulligan's niece, and George Cruz. ✠ Kilgore family, Edna, Natalie's Prego family, and Anne Swoboda ✠ Trudy DiCarlo back from hospital, Nancy, The Guttenberg family who lost their daughter at Douglas HS., The Kilgore Family and Edna Hayn.

In Our Prayers

In the Hospital:
 Elizabeth Cody - Holy Cross

In a facility or homebound:
 Trudy DiCarlo - John Knox Village
 Barbara Kaptain - The Atrium
 Jane Reinhold - 6700 NW 21ST St. Margate
 Evelyn Braun - 6152 Verde Trail #106 Boca Raton
 Jim Loggins - John Knox Village - Woodlands

In our prayers today and in the days ahead, we remember the victims of the Parkland school shooting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **ATTENDANCE CARDS**, are in our bulletin today for members and visitors. Please place in offering plate. Thank You.
2. **OFFERING ENVELOPES**, 2018 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the back table. If any other friends of the church who would like offering envelopes, please see Larry Jones or Carol Jacobson.
3. **“Theme Songs of the Great Comedians”**, a wonderful concert filled with music (Bob Vogel on piano) and comedian (Lenny Davie, who is a nationally recognized comedy historian.) Together they perform a humor filled program of Vaudeville, movies, Broadway, radio and record albums. Come for this delightful and exciting night. Tickets available now \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. for more info please call Carol Jacobson or the church office.
4. **We are not doing our usual hand shaking during** this flu epidemic. Please greet each other without shaking hands.
5. **There will be two Lenten services** on March 1, 2018. Those serving at the **12:15 pm service** is Pat Belanger, as Assistant Minister, Linda Hanzlik, Floyd MacDonald as ushers and greeters.
The 7 p.m. service, servers are Asst. Minister Carol Jacobson, Acolyte Katie Paff, Ushers and Greeters Lynda Smith/Zac Smith.
6. **Luther Room Work Day.** “We will have a work party on Wednesday at 12:30 PM in the Luther Room. If you are able, please show up and be prepared to work. Afterwards, some of us may go out and get some lunch together. “
7. **New Members.** our next reception of new members will be March 25. If you're interested in joining at that time, please indicate that on your attendance card and or call Pastor Nelson at [561-235-0929](tel:561-235-0929).”

FUNDRAISING JEWELRY PARTY

On March 11 at 11:45am following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a jewelry party. This event is a fund raising that we are having instead of the fashion show this year. There will be two jewelry companies. Grace & Heart, a religious jewelry. The other company is Waxing Poetic. Both companies are very unique and affordable. Please come you may find that piece you've been looking for to complete your collection.



Service Assistants for today

10:15 AM	<u>February 25</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Catherine Zippay
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	Larry Jones



Stewardship Snippet

February 25, 2018 (2nd Sunday in Lent, Year B)

Exodus 20:8-11 – Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Take one day off per week – God’s orders! God spends FOUR verses to tell us to keep the sabbath day holy. It’s that important! Holy stewardship of our lives means we take time to refrain from work. So chill out! It’s literally a sin not to!

Calendar

FEBRUARY

Sunday 25

10:15am 2nd Sunday

11:15am Vitality Survey

11:45-1:45 Confirmation

Monday 26

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 27

Wednesday 28

8:00am Quilting

MARCH

Thursday 1

12:15pm Midweek Worship

7:00-7:30pm Worship

7:30 Choir rehearsal

Friday 2

Sunday 4

10:15am 3rd Sunday in Lent

11:15am Vitality Survey

11:45-1:45 Confirmation



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson – Interim Pastor
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561-235-0929

Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music

Clarence (Teddy) Rowe – Sexton

Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant
sslcpompano@gmail.com

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

Congregation Council

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Christian Hecker – Vice-president
Eric Castaneda - Treasurer
Natalie Prego – Secretary
Lynda Smith
Patricia Engle
Harry Ambrose
Dennis Magarrell

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A LENT GREETING FROM THE BISHOP SUAREZ

Feb. 14, 2018

Dear friends in Christ in the Florida-Bahamas Synod,

On Ash Wednesday, as we once again enter into the season of Lent and focus on Jesus' journey to the cross, we do what we've done before. We reflect. We repent. We re-affirm God's passionate love for the world through our words and actions. Just like doing something special for a loved one even though we've done it before, Lent offers us a season to repeat and reflect on truths we've heard before. But, though the messages may be familiar, the lessons and transformations are new each year. What this story does to us each time we hear it is different. Where Christ shows up in the world each time we share it is different.

We use repetition to teach our children...and to learn ourselves. We use repetition to tend to, restore, and strengthen relationships. We are people who learn through repetition. And when we model again a season of prayer, contemplation and service, our children learn (and we learn too) that there is something important about repenting...again and again. There is something important about serving...again and again. There is something important about praying...again and again.

In the season of Lent (and throughout the year), we are invited to reflect again and again on what Jesus did on the cross. We tell this story so our children will learn it. We tell it over and over so that we internalize it, and remember that Jesus was passionate about his love for us. Lent leads us to the "Passion story." And what he did during his three years of ministry—he was passionate about that, too.

We learn something different each time we live these 40 days.

This year, instead of giving up something...what might we repeat and reflect on that will make a difference? Could we repeat a trip to the grocery store and buy an extra bag of groceries for our local food pantry? Could we repeat a phone call and check in on a friend or loved one again? Could we repeat a visit to a local nursing home and visit another resident who doesn't have family close by? Could we take another 10 minutes each day for prayer? And what might we learn from these repetitions that we haven't noticed before? Where do these encounters reveal the passionate love of Christ for us and for the world?

May you, again and again, receive and be transformed by the love of Christ this Lent.

Peace,

+Pedro

Pedro M. Suarez
Bishop, Florida-Bahamas Synod

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