

MORE THAN  
CONQUERORS



Lent 2 – Through Struggle

Grace Lutheran Church

February 28, 2021

# Second Sunday in Lent

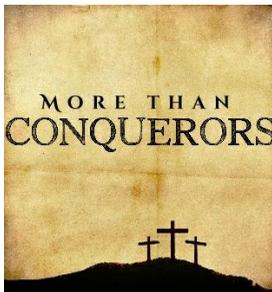
February 28, 2021



The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring (“lengten,” the time of the year when the days grow longer). For the last 1700 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of preparation, of repentance and renewal.

During Lent, our rejoicing is muted as we remember our Lord’s suffering and death. But it is with a purpose: we know that the Lord who died took up his life again on Easter Sunday morning. So our 40 days (for precise counters, the Sundays aren’t counted as part of Lent and are considered “little Easters”) are observed knowing that the battle has been won for us at the cross and empty tomb.

The color of the season is purple. Purple is the ancient color of royalty. We have this kind of king: he wore a crown of thorns, and carried a cross for us. Thanks be to God!



## More Than Conquerors in Lent

Last week – Through Christ

**Today – Through Struggle**

March 7 – Through Wisdom + Strength

March 14 – Through Grace

March 21 – Through Salvation

March 28 – Through Humbleness



*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace*

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## REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

Psalm 130

February 28,  
2021

*This alternate  
beginning to  
worship reminds us  
that conquering in  
the Christian life  
comes by simply  
remembering  
Christ's love for us.*

L: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

**C: As watchmen who wait upon the daylight, wait for the Lord.  
I trust in your kindness and redemption and your faithful word.**

**Before all the mountains were begotten and earth took shape,  
even then, O Lord, you were our refuge throughout ev'ry age.**

L: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

## INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: 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: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and action. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

L: 1. Lord Jesus, you call us to repentance, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

2. Christ Jesus, you heal all our divisions, **C: Christ, have mercy.**

3. Lord Jesus, our strength and our salvation, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**All: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 28:10-17

*Jacob finds himself alone with an uncertain future because of his sins, yet in the midst of struggle, God brings peace and promise.*

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death,  
even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

## GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

*Jesus MUST do this  
for our salvation,  
for we cannot do it  
for ourselves. His  
way and therefore  
our way, is victory  
through suffering.*

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**



## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken (CW #465)

**1** Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own.

**2** Let the world despise and leave me; They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; You are not, like them, untrue.  
And since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me—Show your face, and all is bright.

**3** Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In your service pain is pleasure; With your favor loss is gain.  
I have called you Abba, Father! You my all in all shall be.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me.

**4** Haste, my soul, from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by  
prayer.  
All but heav'n is transitory; God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story; Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

## SERMON LESSON

*based on* Romans 5:1-11

### More than Conquerors...

Through  
suffering

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast (*rejoice*) in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory (*rejoice*) in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame (*disappoint us*), because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this

so, but we also boast (*rejoice*) in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and 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.**

## **BLESSING**

**M:**     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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## I Am Thine, O LORD

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, And it told thy love to me.  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

*Refrain*

Draw me nearer, nearer, to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, to thy precious bleeding side.

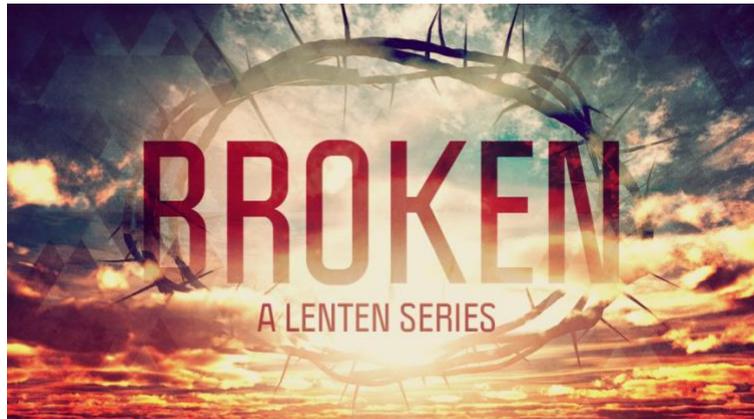
Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, By the pow'r of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope and my will be lost in thine.

*Refrain*

There are depths of love that I cannot know Till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I man not reach Till I rest in peace with thee.

*Refrain*

*Text: Fanny Crosby  
Tune: Sarah  
Lambrecht  
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## PRAYERS

➤ Brad for healing and perseverance

## CALENDAR

**Wednesday – Online midweek Lent: Broken Vessels**

**Thursday – Zoom Bible Study at 10 AM or 7 PM**

**SUNDAY – Worship – online or 9:30 AM in person**  
Confirmation class