



GATHERING

WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS

Centering Prayer (Norie Chandler Siers)

As we enter Lent we hear the story of God calling Abram and changing his name to Abraham which means Father of many. We are a part of Abrahams many descendants and his role modeling of righteousness calls us to open the doors of our hearts. As we allow God's grace to take possession of our thoughts, words and actions we follow in the footsteps of our Father in Faith. In today's Gospel Jesus issues his very strong invitation or perhaps it could even be called a command. If we want to follow Him we must take up our own crosses and deny ourselves. Self-denial is certainly not something we hear about in today's American culture. Many of us have found the challenges of Covid 19 protocols to seem like self-denial. Could we take them on as our Lenten practices? How will we define the cross we are willing to take up in response to Jesus's invitation? We ask Him to take the wheat of our lives and make it into bread for others. **Amen.**

Children's Message

SONG

319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Old Testament Reading Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. From you comes my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn—for he has done it.

Confession & Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Have mercy on us, O God. Restore us and let your anger depart from us. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE WORD

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY MARK 8:31-38; 9:2-9

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter, "Out of my sight, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

MESSAGE

MUSIC MINISTRY

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

PRAYER

THE MEAL

COMMUNION

At OFLC, we practice an open table. What that means is all are welcome to participate in receiving communion, for it is the Lord's Table, and the grace given through these communion elements is given freely by God. In this time of COVID, we are using prepackaged communion elements. The Pastor will give instructions as we observe the Sacrament safely. If you did not pick up a communion kit or need assistance with yours, please raise your hand when directed by the Pastor and one of our Worship Coordinators will assist you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

WE JOIN TOGETHER IN THE WORDS THAT JESUS TAUGHT US IN THE LORD'S PRAYER...

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SONG

Will You Come and Follow Me

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The Summons

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Recognition of & Thanksgiving for Call Committee

Council Representative #1: The responsibility of the Call Committee, led by the Holy Spirit, is to be responsible for the process of calling a new pastor. While the committee's work technically ends with the official calling of a pastor, it is right and appropriate to recognize their faithful effort.

Council Representative #2: For our congregation of Our Father's Lutheran Church, calling a pastor was no small task due to unique challenges and a longer than normal process. The words from Hebrews 12 describes your ministry and work well: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Council Representative #1: Your work now complete, we, along with God, take this time to say to each of you, "well done, good and faithful servants." This call committee is ended with joy and thanksgiving and you are released to pursue God's other callings in your lives.

This is a time for the members of the Call Committee, the Assembly, or Council to express any specific thanksgivings or blessings.

Council Representative #2: May God bless us richly as a congregation. Let us now go in peace and joy to serve the LORD!

All: Thanks be to God!