**Good Shephe****rd Lutheran Church**

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| Pastor: Katie Anderson | Music Director: Lois Swanson |
| Pastor’s Cell: (715) 245-1943 | Office Phone: (715) 387-2731 |
| Pastor Email: gslcwi.pastor@gmail.com | Office Email: gslcwi.office@gmail.com |
| Website: GoodShepherdMarshfield.org | www.facebook.com/gslcwi |

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**February 25, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

As a new disciple, perhaps Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. He, too, walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we’re sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, too-busy seasons of life, devastating grief, or distance from God. In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Gracious God,

**There are days that threaten to swallow us,**

**days when the storms of life feel too big.**

**In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,**

**spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.**

**Forgive us for doubting ourselves.**

**Forgive us for doubting you.**

**Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.**

**With hope in our hearts we pray.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, You could get out of the boat and walk on the water like Peter,

or fall to your knees and stay in one place.

No matter what you do,

Christ’s love for you is unchanging.

Fearful or brave,

faithful or doubting,

Christ is always walking toward you.

So hear and believe this good news:

God’s love is stronger than any storms.

On our best days,

and on our worst days,

we are seen, forgiven, and loved.

God is always walking toward you.

Thanks be to God!

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Holy God, there are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to pull us into your Word so that we might hear your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC This Little Light of Mine ELW 677(v. 1)**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**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.
 24**For 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.
 26**The 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.
 28**For 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.
 30**Their 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 15**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33**

22Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
28Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Rescue Me From Danger**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.**

**I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.**

**I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.**

**I believe in a God who knows my name.**

**I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in February*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***the Ronald McDonald House.***

**OFFERING HYMN Lead Me, Guide Me ELW 768**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life

and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered

that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food

but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy ACS pg. 20**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

Beloved wanderer,

as you leave this place,

may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat,

to run to the tomb,

and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,

may you hear God’s voice deep within,

saying, “Take heart, it is I, be not afraid.”

You are called.

You are blessed.

In both your ups and your downs,

you always belong to God.

Go now in peace.

Go trusting that good news.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN I Want Jesus to Walk with Me ELW 325**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | **Deep Clean** |
| February 25 | Dan & Pam Mundt | Christine Tipping | Bob & Laurel Peterson | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler | March:Nancy LeonardJannalee Kolbeck-LindquistHeidi Binder |
| March 3 | Charles & Mary Schlafke | Richard Kopitzke | Tammy NeumannSarah Kopitzke | Robin Beeman | David Schneider |
| March 10 | Susan Schoolman | Andrea Hovik | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |
| March 17 | Tammy Neumann | Jon Hill | Dan & Pam Mundt | Pam Mundt | May Hill |

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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes:

Kidney Beans, Baked Beans, Sandwich Bags, Chicken Noodle Soup, Dish Soap, Oatmeal, Jelly, Gravy, Pudding, Broth, All Purpose Cleaner, Shampoo, Conditioner, Pancake Mix, Baking Items, Paper Towels, Dried Soup. **Urgently need: Baby wipes and diapers, Toothpaste and Mayo.**

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| Sunday, February 25 | 9:00 am | Worship Service* Second Sunday in Lent
* Matthew 14:22-33; Jesus walking on the sea
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| Tuesday, February 27 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, February 28 | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (discuss Season 2 Episode 6 of “The Chosen”) |
|  | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek WorshipConfirmation Class |
| Sunday, March 3 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School* Third Sunday in Lent
* Matthew 16:13-20; Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah
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**People of God, for what else do we pray?**

Lent is a season to focus on prayer. No prayer is too big or too small. You are welcome to use the post-its and pens on the back table to share your prayer concerns, gratitude, celebration, and anything else on your heart.

****During the season of Lent as we explore Peter’s faith journey, we consider our own faith journey as well. Today, you are invited to consider key experiences in your life. Happy, sad, positive, negative, how have they formed you into the person you are today? Do you include religious encounters in this list of pivotal experiences?