

In Our Hungry World

"It's like an early birthday present." He smiled more than a thirty-nine-cent pocket folder deserved. Then I learned my student did not expect gifts, cake, a special dinner, or any other recognition of his thirteenth birthday.

It didn't help that we collected money to buy him cupcakes and school supplies. It didn't help that he looked happier than I had ever seen him. I was giving him one day of joy in a lifetime of hardship. He is one of many.

I worry about the world and the hate, violence, poverty, and crime that I see. I really can't do that much. I try. I donate, love people, pastor a church, and volunteer. Most people would say I am a good person. Yet, in the center of it all is my own selfishness. That bugs me. I help others, but I guard the things I want. I hold on to the traditions that secure my self-preservation. Sometimes I say with the apostle Paul: "Who can rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24).

Thanks be to God that Jesus came for that. Christ gives victory over hunger, evil, and death. Psalm 22 says that both the hungry and the full will bow down before the throne of God, and their needs will be satisfied. We need to help without feeling guilty for our own blessings. We are called to compassion, including caring for ourselves. I must bow down to Jesus and let God control my life, including my anxiety and my outreach.

In our rich and powerful culture, Lent calls us to remember that in Christ we find ways to be generous, to serve others, and to address our own shortcomings. The poor shall eat, and I will try to make that happen. What I can't do, I'll trust to Jesus.

—Jan Orndorff
Wardensville, West Virginia

Text for today: "You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. *The poor shall eat* and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations" (Psalm 22:23-28, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31 (26); Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9.

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The poor shall eat

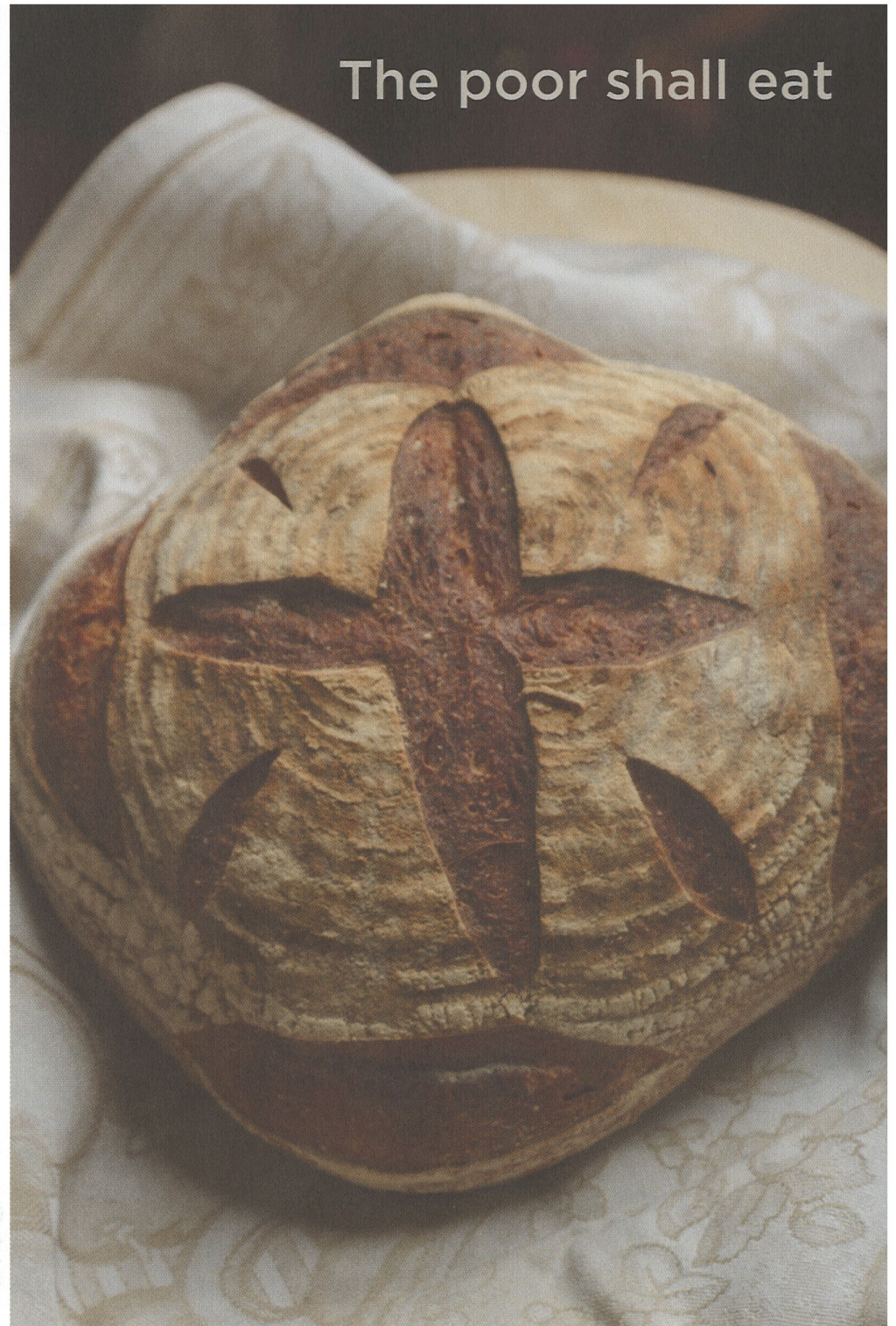


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**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland**

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “O God of Earth and Altar” (Arr. Wold)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Diana Shepherd, Worship Leader

One: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following
Jesus wherever he leads us.

**All: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God
covenants with us, to receive the new names
we are given.**

One: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future
generations the good news.

**All: Lent calls us to practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

One: Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

**All: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

One: Lent calls us to journey with God.

**All: Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

***HYMN #79** “Lord, with devotion we pray”

[Verse 1]

*Lord, with devotion we pray, look thou upon us with love. While we adore
thee and honor thy name, grant us thy smiles from above.*

[Refrain]

*Oh, great is the Lord! Thy name shall endure! Let heaven and earth,
oh, let all sing thy praise! Oh, great is the Lord. Thy name shall endure,
for thou art the joy of my days!*

[Verse 2]

*Let all that seek thee rejoice oh, let them be glad in the Lord.
Let such as love thy salvation sing praise- thou hast the fallen restored!*

[Refrain]

*Oh, great is the Lord! Thy name shall endure! Let heaven and earth,
oh, let all sing thy praise! Oh, great is the Lord. Thy name shall endure,
for thou art the joy of my days!*

[Verse 3]

*Thou art my hop, O my God; yea, thou art my trust from my youth.
Thou art my refuge, my fortress, my rock – Lord, thou art wisdom and truth!*

[Refrain]

*Oh, great is the Lord! Thy name shall endure! Let heaven and earth,
oh, let all sing thy praise! Oh, great is the Lord. Thy name shall endure,
for thou art the joy of my days!*

***OPENING PRAYER**

In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God,
eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We
have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the
faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow
strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you
glory and praise, we gather to do the same. As they passed on their
faith to new generations, we seek to teach and live in such a way
that our children and their children will be drawn to minister in
your name. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who
lose themselves for Christ's sake and for the gospel will be saved.
We are invited to give all we have and all we are to the realization
of God's will among us. A portion of that we bring today as our
offering.

(continued)

As you listen to the offertory, you can use this time to prepare your offering to mail into the church, or to drop off at the church, or to go to the HCOB webpage and use PayPal to give your offering. May we give joyfully as we participate in this significant act of worship.

Offertory "The God of Abraham Praise" (Arr. Lowe)

Doxology #119 "Praise God from whom"

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC "My Jesus Walked" (Doucet/McDonald)
The Ladies Ensemble

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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

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

MESSAGE "God Doesn't Cross His Fingers"
Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #567** "How firm a foundation"
[Verse 1]

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

[Verse 2]

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give you aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

[Verse 3]

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow, for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

[Verse 4]

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply. The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

[Verse 5]

"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes. That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Foundation" (Arr. Page)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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