

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Because God Has Remembered

With Purpose, on Purpose

February 28, 2021

AS WE GATHER



The old Latin name for this, the Second Sunday in Lent, is Reminiscers, because the Introit pleads, “Remember Your mercy, O Lord.” Confidently, it continues by encouraging us to trust Him because “He has remembered us; He will bless us.” Indeed, God’s promises to Abram in today’s Old Testament Reading were kept as Jesus moved unswervingly toward the cross, as He does in today’s Gospel. As a result, we can be sure, Paul reminds us in the Epistle, that we have peace with God. Even in suffering, we know that hope will not disappoint us, for we remember that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Our Lord’s whole purpose in becoming one of us in human history was to die for us. As a result, He purposely marched toward Jerusalem and the certain death on the cross He knew would come. For Him, the Scriptures were not forecasts of what might happen but God’s immutable will for Him. He had to suffer and die so that we could be saved. And the eternal life He thereby won for us gives us purpose in daily living. We can willingly deny ourselves in service to others; we can take up our cross, knowing that our life with Him will never end.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

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PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Heavenly Father, give me a teachable spirit and a desire to know Your ways. Keep me separated from the ways of wicked men and help me to walk daily in the path that you have set before me. Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship for the freedom to be amongst your family meeting together in your house and in the warmth of your embrace Thank you that in worship we can put aside the uncertainties of this world and rest upon the certainties of the Kingdom for your promises are not changeable as those of a politician might be but immovable and eternal Thank you that we can bring to your feet all the hurts and fears that trouble us and leave them there knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we require Thank you that as we draw near in

worship we are transported from a world of concerns and fears to a place where we can be at peace in your presence find healing, wholeness and refreshment. Thank you, Lord God, for the opportunity of worship. Amen.

WELCOME:

Welcome, worshippers of the Living God! As you lift up God on this journey of Lent with your love and longing, and with your praise and prayers, May God bless you with His Word so you experience the peace and promise of His presence and know the purpose and power of His plan for you! May you be filled with joy and hope in believing, so you overflow with Christ-like words and deeds, blessing everyone you meet this coming week!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Incorporating *Genesis 17:7; Psalm 22:27; Romans 5:6, 9–10*

Pastor: God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham,

People: **but our faith has waxed and waned. O Lord, forgive our forgetfulness of Your unchanging grace.**

Pastor: David wrote, “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,”

People: **but we have failed to remind one another of God’s mercy and love. O Lord, forgive our hesitancy to share the news of Your gracious presence.**

Pastor: Paul wrote that because Christ died for the ungodly, we are justified by His blood,

People: **but we have tried to hide our sinfulness. O Lord, forgive our blindness to the necessary sacrifice of our Savior.**

Pastor: God sent His Son into the world with one purpose: to save us from the wrath of God. "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

✕ **WORD** ✕

INTROIT *Psalm 115:11–13; antiphon: Psalm 25:6*

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.

People: **The LORD has remembered us; He will bless us;
He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of
Aaron;**

Pastor: He will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

People: **We will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.
Praise the LORD!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace among the families of the nations and in coming generations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who rejoice here for our access by faith into this grace in which we stand, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: By Your purposeful suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection—help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength.
By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16* (God makes a covenant promise to Abram.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

Leader: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–11* (Grace: Christ died for the ungodly.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 8:34b*

Leader: If anyone would come after Me,

People: **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 8:27–38* (Truly knowing Christ means following Him.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)

APOSTLE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their various circumstances.

For the Church around the world, all people who join Peter in professing that Jesus is the Christ, that they trust God's purpose for their lives, take up their crosses, and follow, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who spend their lives serving the physical, mental, social, and emotional needs of the people around them, that God bless and guide them according to His gracious purpose, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For professional counselors and private confidants who alleviate suffering, enable endurance, support character, and encourage hope, that they serve as conduits for God's purposes in the lives of their patients, family, and friends, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who lead the governments of the world, that they find purpose in their positions, using every means to increase harvests, combat global health crises, minimize conflict between nations, and ensure equal justice for all their citizens, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those near and dear to us, [*especially* . . .], that God bring about the healing, comfort, freedom, and dignity for which they send requests to our gracious Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessing of God almighty—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

Sarah Rector

Born as the daughter of freedmen in 1902, Sarah Rector rose from humble beginnings to reportedly become the wealthiest black girl in the nation at the age of 11.

She became a multimillionaire oil baron when oil was discovered on land that was allotted to her because it was deemed “Unsuitable for Farming.”

Following the Civil War, Rector’s parents, who were formerly enslaved by Creek Tribe members, were entitled to land



allotments under the Dawes Allotment Act of 1887. As a result, hundreds of black children, or “Creek Freedmen minors,” were each granted 160 acres of land as Indian Territory integrated with Oklahoma Territory to form the State of Oklahoma in 1907. Strapped for cash, Rector’s father leased his daughter’s parcel to a major oil company in February 1911 to help him pay the \$30 annual property tax.

Two years later, Rector’s fortune took a major turn when independent oil driller B.B. Jones produced a “gusher” on her land that brought in 2,500 barrels or 105,000 gallons per day. Rector began earning more than \$300 a day in 1913. That equates to \$7,000 – \$8,000 today. She even generated \$11,567 in October 1913. Her fame became widespread and she received numerous requests for loans, money gifts, and four marriage proposals. By the time she turned 18, Rector was worth an estimated \$1 million, or about \$11 million today. She also owned stocks and bonds, a boarding house, a bakery and restaurant in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and 2,000 acres of land.

She eventually left Tuskegee with her family and moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where she bought a grand home that still stands today. “There, the Rectors eventually moved into a home that was a far cry from that weather-whipped two-room cabin in which Sarah began life. This home-place was a stately stone house. It became known as the Rector Mansion.”

In 1922, she married Kenneth Campbell, the second African American to own an auto dealership. The couple had three sons and were recognized as local royalty, driving expensive cars and entertaining elites like Joe Louis, Duke Ellington, and Count Basie at their home. They divorced in 1930 and Rector remarried in 1934. Rector's lost most of her wealth during The Great Depression. When she died at age 65 on July 22, 1967, she only had some working oil wells and real estate holdings.