Welcome to Worship on this





French River Lutheran Church Duluth, MN

February 25, 2024 ~10:00 a.m. Reverend Kim Sturtz ~ Presiding

Worship Assistant: Sue Baker
Lector: FRLC Youth ~Penelope Sturtz & Dani Marks
Altar Guild: Lynne Compton & Brita Aug
Musicians: Organist - David Fiebiger &
French River Ringers

* Coffee fellowship to follow worship! Join us!

Welcome to all in Jesus' Name!

Please follow the current FRLC Preparedness Plan for COVID-19. Details are located under announcements in this bulletin. LARGE PRINT worship folders are available from an usher. A family restroom and nursery are to the left of the sanctuary; again, follow the Preparedness Plan for use. To contact the pastor or church office, you are invited to complete a pew card and return the information portion either to an usher or by way of the offering plate. Please keep the bookmark and worship with us again! We appreciate electronic devices set on "mute" during the service.

Bold Print signals places where the assembly speaks in unity in worship

* Indicates where to stand as you are able in body or in Spirit.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

<u>PRELUDE</u>: <u>ORGANIST</u>: David Fiebiger

———GATHERING——— The Holy Spirit gathers us together as people of God

*GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*GATHERING HYMN: "O Word of God Incarnate"

ELW #514

O Word of God Incarnate



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt. Music: MUNICH, Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

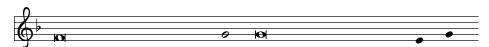
God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters, the courageous and the fearful, the hungry and the hopeful, the impatient and the reserved.
God welcomes the young and the old, the poets and the prophets, the faithful and the tired, the curious and the convicted.
Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea, there is room for all to gather here.
This is God's house.
Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

*KYRIE: Setting 6 (see following page) ELW Pg. #165



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





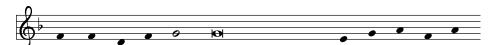
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

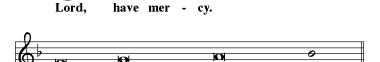


Lord,



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and





Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ. Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats. And here's what I mean: In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God. This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truthtelling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet.

Let us pray together:

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

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.

Family of faith,

You could get out of the boat and walk on 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. Ouiet our restless minds.

Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, *really hear*, your message to us today.

With one foot out of the boat, we pray, Amen.

———WORD———

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song.

A reading from Genesis:

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

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

Penelope Sturtz

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."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

You 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.

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.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, 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.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

A reading from Romans:

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

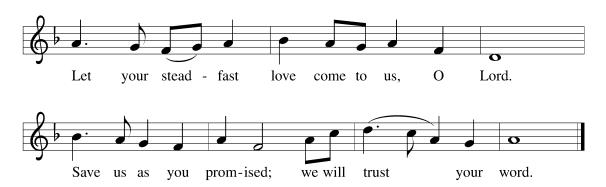
The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For 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, as 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. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He 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. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.)

Let Your Steadfast Love



Music: Robert Buckley Farlee
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*GOSPEL: *Matthew 14:22-33*

The Holy Gospel according to *Matthew 14:22-33*. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you of Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: The Reverend Kim Sturtz

SERMON: The Reverend Kim Sturtz

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.

Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848

*APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again: he ascended into heaven. he is seated at the right hand of the Father. and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body. and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE: The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** Please share this peace with your neighbors.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Dani Marks

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

(A brief silence.)

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. 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.**

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE:

*OFFERING PRAYER:

(If you did not place your offering in the plate as you entered the sanctuary, please feel free to hand it to an usher upon dismissal. During the week, offerings may be placed in the secure lockbox by the lower doors [slot is right of the door]. Mail and online giving are also available. Thank you for your generous support of our ministry together!)

ORGANIST: David Fiebiger

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.

———MEAL———

God feeds us in goodness and grace with the presence of Jesus Christ.

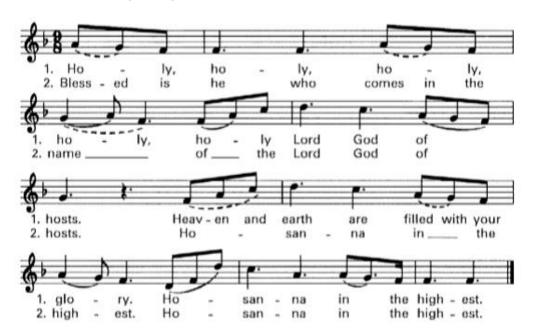
(All are welcome to receive the true presence of Jesus in the bread and wine or juice provided. Today we offer two ways to commune, at the front or in the pew. If you wish to receive grape juice instead of wine, please pick up the colored tab of paper in the envelope holder in the pew and show it to the server. Today, communion will be distributed continuously at the altar rail. If you cannot come to the altar, please indicate to an usher and communion will be brought to you. Children not communing may come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available; please inform the pastor if you prefer one. For those who wish to receive communion while in the pew but did not pick take a packet upon entering the sanctuary, please signal for an usher and a packet will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available from their own basket.)

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION & BLESSING:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*PREFACE: Lent

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: by Grayson Brown



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

*LORD'S PRAYER:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

ORGANIST: David Fiebiger

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*COMMUNION MEDITATION:

*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.**

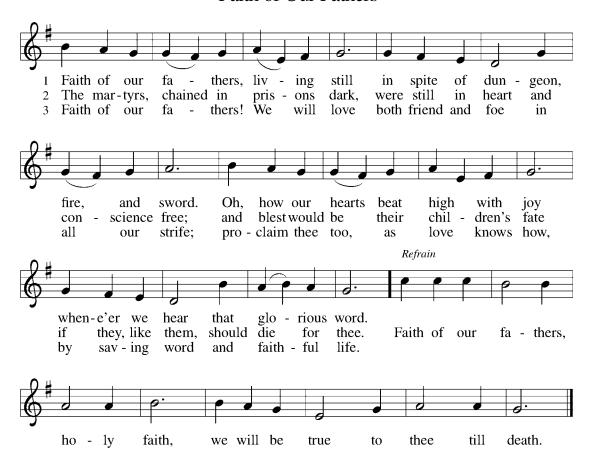
————SENDING———

God blesses us and equips us as disciples sent into the world.

*A BENEDICTION FOR THE SERIES:

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 downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting the good news. Amen.

Faith of Our Fathers



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

*SENDING:

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

(For those in pews, please remain seated until invited by an usher to depart.)

POSTLUDE:

ORGANIST: David Fiebiger

Thank you for joining us wherever you are. Remember, you are beloved and blessed!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covid-19 Preparedness

In the care and consideration of others, the wearing of masks is optional for worship. However, if you or a family member are experiencing any fever, cough, stomach issues, or are recovering from an illness or other ailments within 48 hours before gathering in worship, we strongly advise

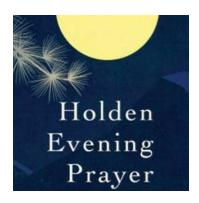
the wearing of a mask while in worship.

A simple mask in these moments and places helps us protect loved ones, especially the weak and elderly,

front-line medical personnel and their families, our faith community and larger communities. Thank you for this kindness.



If you have not done so yet, there is still time to complete a short survey about the Outdoor Gathering and Worship Space (a.k.a. Timberframe). Yellow survey cards are available at the Welcome Center in the narthex. The Outreach Committee looks forward to reading your ideas!



Lenten Soup Supper and Services Wednesdays starting February 21st through March 20th.

Join us at 5:30pm Soup Supper,
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Service.

Please come and enjoy community in contemplative space and time.

Coming Up:

2/25 Sun: 10a – Second Sunday in Lent

Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz

10:45a - Sunday School; 11:15a - Coffee Fellowship

*100-Year Celebration Organizational Meeting

2/27 Tues: 9a – Bulletin Deadline; 7p – AA

2/28 Wed: 9a - Parables Assembly;

5:30p - Lenten Soup/Supper;

6:30p - Holden Eve. Prayer Service; 7p - Choir

2/29 Thurs: 9a – Outreach; **5:30-7p – First Communion Class**

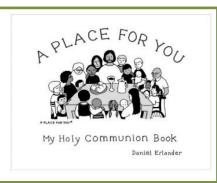
3/3 Next Sun: 10a – Third Sunday in Lent

Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz

10:45a – Sunday School 11:15a – Coffee Fellowship

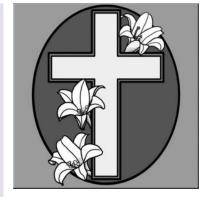
5:30-7pm February 29, March 7, March 14th in the Fireside Room.

For any child/youth interested in learning that there is a place for you at the Table of Grace First Communion will be given on Maundy Thursday Service March 28 at 6pm. Please Let Pastor Kim Sturtz know if you would like your child would like to participate. frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com



FRLC Council has chosen to equally split our special Lenten and Easter offering to Second Harvest Northland and The Seafarers Center (Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers). Thank you for your generosity.

(Please note: there are two opportunities for giving on March 31, those being the traditional Sunday offering and a special Easter offering. If using numbered envelopes, the distinction is already made. All other gifts should be designated accordingly. Thank you.)



Welcome to French River Lutheran Church

You are welcome to keep this bulletin, however, we recycle when possible so you may leave it on the ushers' stand.



Immediate: Marlene Miller, prayers for healing from eye surgery; prayers for peace and comfort both as she travels to be with Dennis as he is nearing the end of his journey.; Deb Sodomka (cousin of Bill & Susie Lannon).

Long-Term: Phil Strom, for Parkinsons; Julie Moe-Hommerding; 5-year-old great niece of Susie Lannon (heart surgery 6/26/17, still not healthy); Kathy Johnson (Carol Leppala's friend); Bruce Sundberg; Angela Debelak, (niece of Gail Johnson) is currently in remission from for her brain cancer and recovering slowly; please continue to pray for no recurrence.; Alex Peterson – military service: Todd Sironen.

WHEN SUBMITTING A NAME TO THE TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN, PLEASE INDICATE IF IT IS PERMISSABLE TO LIST IN THE BULLETIN.

Called by the Spirit	February 25	March 3				
Worship Leader	Rev. Kim Sturtz	Rev. Kim Sturtz				
Lector	FRLC Youth	Steve Baker				
Altar Guild	Lynne C. & Brita A.	Lynne Comtpon				
Ushers	Dick & Marilyn Story	Sue & Steve Baker				
Counters/Worship	Dave Edblom/	Ann Rankila/				
Assistant*	*Sue Baker	ArMand Nelson*				
Coffee Fellowship	Kay Libby	Bethlehem				
Prayer Chain	Babs Strom 218.525.6200					

French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd, Duluth, MN 55804

Church: (218)525-5659; frlc5310@gmail.com Pr. Kim Sturtz: (218)393-7444; frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com Office hours vary so please call ahead.

FRLC webpage: www.frenchriverlutheran.org.

FRLC Mission: "To live and love as God commands, accept His grace, and share the Good News."

Watch services at FRLC anytime! YouTube live streaming of the service at https://www.youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch

This link is also found on our church homepage and Facebook group. If you are unable to watch it live, you can view it any time after the service by following the same link.

🕇 We're glad you worshiped with us today. Thanks be to God! 葷



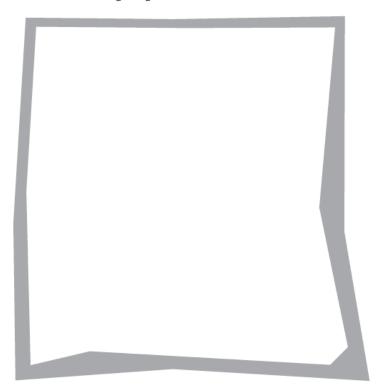
During the season of Lent, the color is purple. Who is wearing purple in your church today? Are there any new purple decorations in your church?

Draw them below!

I counted this many people wearing purple:



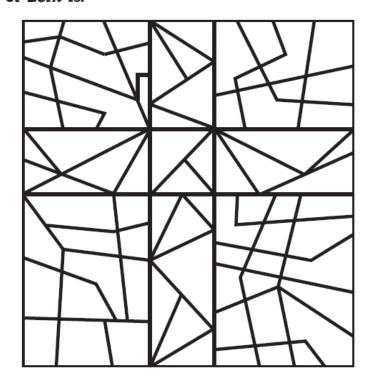
Here are the purple decorations I see:





- Today is the 2nd Sunday in **Lent**.
- Lent lasts 40 days.
- One symbol of Lent is a cross.
- During Lent, we learn about Jesus' life.

Color in the triangles to see what the symbol of Lent is.





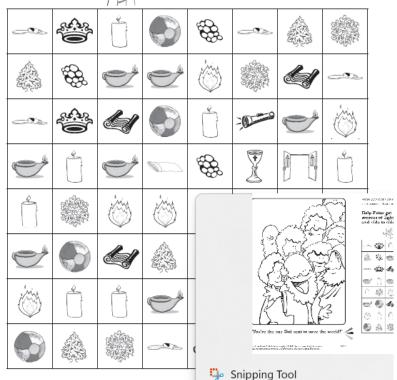
"You're the one God sent to save the world!"



Peter was not sure about God's plan. Following God's plan can be hard work!

Help Peter get to Jesus by following the sources of light. You can move up and down and side to side.





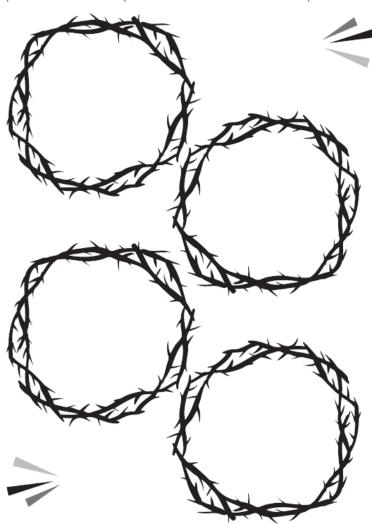
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LENT 2

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Jesus' Life in Art

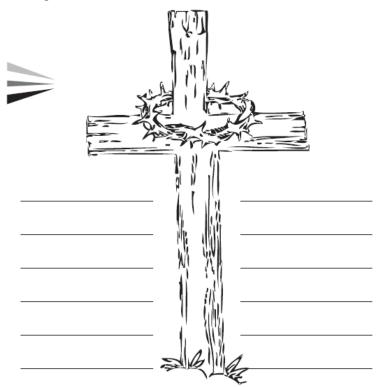
Many churches have artwork in the worship space that shows stories about Jesus during his life on Earth. Look around your worship space. How many pictures of Jesus' life can you find? Sketch some of them in these spaces.





- Today is the 2nd Sunday in Lent.
- During Lent we remember that Jesus suffered.
- In our church family, we can support people who are suffering.

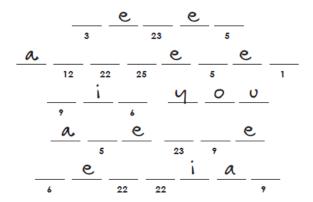
During Lent, we can pay more attention to the ways people may be suffering. In each space write something you can do for other people during Lent.



Here is the Bible memory verse, but only the vowels are there! Crack the code to read the whole verse.



0	Н	M	N	P	R	S	T	W
1	9	6	12	3	5	55	23	25





and walked. Sometimes just a few people heard his teachings. Other times, big crowds gathered to hear him. Some Bible stories tell us

that thousands of people followed Jesus to hear him teach! What is the biggest crowd you have ever joined $\ref{fig:prop}$

Who Are You?

Can you find these seven different names for Jesus in the word grid? Words can be up and down, side to side, diagonal, and backwards!

Light of the world Son of Man Son of God	Prince of Peace Lamb of God	The Word Messiah
--	--------------------------------	---------------------

T	В	М	P	R	н	С	D	L	В	W	P	Q	٧	Q
Q	н	Y	С	s	Y	T	s	s	М	T	E	1	В	С
Р	E	Α	J	Α	G	s	s	С	J	Y	Υ	w	W	G
w	R	w	1	E	T	0	н	G	1	E	0	Y	٧	В
Α	s	1	0	s	N	В	P	J	P	н	L	D	K	X
E	K	D	N	0	s	н	N	Z	T	R	Α	Α	W	Z
K	W	s	F	С	٧	E	В	N	Α	0	М	M	Z	T
Y	S	G	G	G	E	W	М	T	D	s	В	F	В	С
н	0	С	Α	R	J	0	P	K	R	D	0	K	0	N
D	F	K	В	X	0	٧	F	Q	0	T	F	0	٧	В
R	0	N	X	Q	M	s	٧	P	W	M	G	G	U	w
L	1	G	н	T	0	F	T	н	E	w	0	R	L	D
N	Α	M	F	0	N	0	s	Α	н	Α	D	Y	T	w
J	Z	T	P	G	0	R	L	Α	T	F	С	Y	E	0
Z	٧	С	L	0	Q	F	Q	Q	0	С	E	E	T	L



Peter had a different name before he met Jesus. Look it up in Mark 3:16.