

The Promise Granted Through Faith

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 // Ideas for the Second Sunday of Lent

The assurance that the time of suffering will lead to a time of great praise and spreading of the knowledge of God throughout the Earth. This begins with the covenant that was given to Abraham and his wife Sarah.

CHOOSING SCRIPTURE // FOR THE FOUNDATION

The following passage from Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 lays out a thematic foundation for this service. Other passages that support this theme and might be utilized throughout the service include:

- ◆ Psalm 22: 23-31
- ◆ Romans 4:13-25
- ◆ Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ◆ **Be Thou My Vision**
Text and Music: Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent., Mary E. Byrne, 1905, Eleanor H. Hull 1912
Public Domain
- ◆ **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**
Text and Music: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863 (Choose any tune your church is used to or that you prefer)
Public Domain
- ◆ **Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**
Text and Music: Robert Robinson, Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813
Public Domain
- ◆ **Do It Again**
Text and Music: Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Matt Redman, Chris Brown
Said and Done Music, sixsteps Music, Thankyou Music, worshiptogether.com songs, Music by Elevation
Worship Publishing.
- ◆ **One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)**
Text and Music: Chris McCarney, Anthony Skinner
2010 ChristaJoy Music Publishing, Mercy / Vineyard Publishing, Bethel Music Publishing
- ◆ **The Blessing**
Text and Music: Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Steven Furtick, Kari Jobe
2020 Capitol CMG Paragon, Kari Jobe Carnes Music, Worship Together Music, Writer's Roof Publishing,
Music by Elevation Worship Publishing

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Read the scripture passages above. Then, introduce and show these two videos from Work of the People [workofthepeople.com] instead of preaching a long message. You can also use the videos to prompt small group discussion.

[Die and Be Raised featuring Walter Brueggemann](#)

[Lent and Dying To Yourself featuring Diana Butler Bass](#)

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING



Abraham, Sarah, and the Angel is a painting that was created by Jan Provoost in Paris. This particular painting would work well in this service for the purpose of the main scripture passage, Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16. This passage talks about the sign of the covenant and what was promised to Abraham and his wife Sarah. This painting can be found [here](#).

LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Read each scripture passage and discuss what each passage says about God, about Man, and how can it be applied to your life.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

- Talk about the prophecy that Abraham was told about

Psalm 22:23-31

- Talk about discipleship and outreach
- Discuss the praising through suffering that is mentioned

Romans 4:13-25

- Talk about the promise granted through faith

Mark 8:31-38

- What does this passage say about prophecy and discipleship?
- What does this passage say about evil?

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

Continue keeping the worship space as minimal as possible with decorations and flowers as we are going through a season of suffering and preparation for the resurrected Christ at Easter.

Along with this, continue to refrain from singing or saying the word “alleluia”. As stated above, this is a time of suffering and preparation, not a time of praise yet.

WRITING POETRY // FOR PRAYING

Here is a thematic prayer that can be used in this service:

God of the covenant
 in the glory of the cross
 your Son embraced the power of death
 and broke its hold over your people.
 In this time of repentance,
 draw all people to yourself,
 that we who confess Jesus as Lord
 may put aside the deeds of death
 and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

Here is an intercessory prayer that can be used in this service:

God of the covenant,
 you call us to be fruitful servants within creation,
 and to offer our lives
 as the foundation of your realm.
 We lay before you the desires of our hearts,
 that we may be transformed by their fulfillment.

Here is a scripture-based prayer that can be used in this service:

God of Sarah and Abraham,
 long ago you embrace your people in covenant
 and promised them your blessing.
 Strengthen us in faith,
 that, with you disciples of every age,
 we may proclaim your deliverance in Jesus Christ
 to generations yet unborn. Amen.

All prayers listed above can be found [here](#) on The Revised Common Lectionary website.



SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

The Promise Granted Through Faith/Second Sunday of Lent // Genesis 17:1-7,15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38 // Lent

The assurance that the time of suffering will lead to a time of great praise and spreading of the knowledge of God throughout the Earth. This begins with the covenant that was given to Abraham and his wife Sarah.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, copyright 2013.*

PROCESSION

WELCOME

Welcome everyone and invite them to prepare their hearts and minds for worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

SONGS OF WORSHIP

Be Thou My Vision
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Prayer of Illumination

Guide us, O God,
By your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, copyright 2013.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Typically, this would be the reading that the message is based on.

SONGS OF WORSHIP

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT// EUCCHARIST

CLOSING SONG

Do It Again
The Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Life and Ministry of our Church

BENEDICTION

May the grace of God,
freely given through Christ, our Lord,
and sufficient for all our needs,
and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
who testifies with our spirit
that we are God's children,
guide and sustain us this day
and forever. **Amen.**

Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, copyright 2013.

SENT OUT TO SERVE