This second week in Lent, the Old Testament and Epistle lessons focus on God’s covenant with Abraham. In Genesis, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless their descendants and promises to make them ancestors of nations and kings. Paul writes about this promise to Abraham in his epistle to the Romans, a promise that rests on God’s grace. He emphasizes that the covenant with Abraham was dependent on faith, making Abraham the father of all who have faith. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples and the crowds with them that if they want to follow him, they must deny themselves and take up the cross. This is the paradoxical challenge Jesus sets before all who desire to be faithful followers: If you lose your life for his sake and for the sake of the gospel, you will save it.
Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Chorale Prelude and Fugue on *O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid*  
Johannes Brahms  
(1833–1897)

Introit

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days  
Zebulon M. Highben

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, and did the vict’ry win,  
oh, give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and bear thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self and always live by your most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,  
forevermore in life and death O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that when this life of suffering is past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

—*Claudia Frances Hernaman, 1873*

Greeting and Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn  |  UMH 116

The God of Abraham Praise  
LEONI

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance*

Minister:  Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.

People:  We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.
Minister: We speak in ways that silence others.
People: We are silent when we should speak up.
Minister: We keep score in our hearts.
People: We let hurts grow into hatred.
All: For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Minister: Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole word,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrong,
and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.
People: Amen.

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Proclamation
Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Almighty God, in the hearing of your word and by the prayer and discipline of Lent, may we enter into the mystery of Christ’s sufferings and, by following in his way, come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT pages 12 and 13 in pew Bibles.

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Psalm 22:23–31

You who fear Adonai, praise Him!
   All you seed of Jacob, | give Him honor!
   Hold Him in awe, all you | seed of Israel,
for He did not despise nor deride the suffering | of the weak.
   He did not hide His face from him,
   but when he cried out to | Him, He listened.
From You is my praise in the great | congregation;
   my vows I shall fulfill in the presence of | those who fear Him.
The humble will eat and be satisfied;
   those who seek | Him will praise Him –
   may your heart live | on and on.
They will remember and return to Adonai,
   all the far-reaches | of the earth,
   and bow down before You, all the families | of the nations.
For sovereignty belongs to | Adonai,
   and He rules a- | mong the nations.
Only to Him bow all the prosperous | of the earth;
   before Him will kneel all who go down to the dust,
   unable to | stay alive.
Descendants | will serve Him.
   It will be recounted of my Lord to the genera- | tion to come.
They will declare His beneficence to a people | not yet born,
   for | He has acted!

—trans. Ellen F. Davis

New Testament Lesson | NT page 145 in pew Bibles.

Romans 4:13–25

Lector:  The word of the Lord.
People:  Thanks be to God.
Anthem

Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said  
Paul Bouman  
(1918–2019)

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said,  
“If you would my disciple be;  
forsake the past, and come this day,  
and humbly follow after me.”

Take up your cross; let not its weight  
pervade your soul with vain alarm;  
his strength shall bear your spirit up,  
sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let your foolish heart rebel;  
for you the Lord endured the cross  
to save your soul from death and hell.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross may  
hope to wear a golden crown.

—Charles W. Everest, 1833, alt.

*Gospel Lesson* | NT page 41 in pew Bibles.

Mark 8:31–38

Lector: The word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hoping Against Hope
Response

*Response Hymn | UMH 508

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom

*Apostles’ Creed | UMH 881

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

Offertory Anthem

O Lord, Have Mercy

Roland M. Carter

When I fall on my knees, facing the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. O Lord, have mercy.

Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees...

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees...

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun.
O Lord, have mercy on me. O Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

—Black spiritual, adapt. Roland M. Carter
*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thanksgiving
*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord’s Prayer | All are encouraged to pray the Lord’s Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English text of the prayer can be found at UMG 895.

Sending Forth
*Choral Benediction

God Bless Every Step

God bless every step that you are taking and bless the earth beneath your feet.
God bless every step, God bless the earth.

—Celtic chant of the Céile Dé Order

*Sending Hymn | See hymn printed at back of worship guide.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Postlude

Ciaccona in E minor, BuxWV 160

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today’s worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.
TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Andrew Plasker ..................... Intern for Worship and Student Engagement; Divinity ’25
Bruce Puckett .......................... Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel

Preacher
David Ntim ............................. Chapel Scholar, Engineering ’26

Lector
Senou Kounouho ........................ Engineering ’26
Jun Tan .......................... Chapel Scholar; Trinity ’26

Musicians
Duke Chapel Choir ........................ Choir
Zebulon Highben ........................ Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Robert Parkins ........................ University Organist, Duke University
Chad Fothergill ........................ Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Katherine Johnson ..................... Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
Mitchell Eithun ........................ Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel

Head Usher
James Ferguson ........................ Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Student Preacher | This year’s Student Preacher is David Ntim, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering and computer science. A Chapel Scholar and also a Chapel Ambassador, Ntim serves as the director of religious affairs for Duke Student Government and is active in Every Nation Campus, a Duke Religious Life group.


Today’s Arrangements of Greenery | The beautification of the Chapel for all of Lent is provided by the generosity of the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Chapel Endowment.
University Prayer of Thanksgiving | Each week, we focus on a different campus unit, school, or department for whom to give thanks to God for their service and contributions to the wider university community and beyond. Today, we give thanks for the Division of Duke Student Affairs.

Tour After the Service | Learn about the history, architecture, and life of Duke Chapel on a tour immediately following the service. The tour is free and lasts about forty-five minutes. Meet the docent outside in front of the Chapel.

Evensong Singers Concert | The Chapel’s Evensong Singers present a concert of music by the Anglican church musician Herbert Howells today at 4:00 p.m. This performance features Howells’ Requiem—regarded by many as one of the greatest choral works of the twentieth century—together with anthems, carols, and organ music. The concert concludes with Howells’ stirring setting of the Te Deum composed for the choir of King’s College, Cambridge. Admission is free. Following the concert, all are invited to a related performance: An ensemble presents J.S. Bach’s The Musical Offering at 6:00 p.m. in the Divinity School’s Goodson Chapel.

Film Screening and Discussion | The Divinity School’s Hispanic House of Studies and Office of Black Church Studies presents a screening and discussion of the film Faith in Blackness: An Exploration of Afro-Latine Spirituality Tuesday, February 27, at 5:00 p.m. in 0016 Westbrook. This short-form documentary highlights the lived experiences of AfroLatines of different faith traditions by sharing their stories and how their Blackness plays a role in their spirituality and vice versa. Duke Chapel is a co-sponsor of the event.

Lenten Bible Study | On Wednesdays during Lent, forty-five-minute sessions of prayer and reflection on a reading from the Sunday worship service will be hosted in the Chapel kitchen. There will be coffee and fellowship at 4:30 p.m., followed by a discussion on one of the lectionary readings at 5:00 p.m., and we’ll get you on your way to dinner, homework—or whatever your evening holds—by 5:45 p.m.

Bridge Internship Applications | The Bridge Internship for Duke and North Carolina Central students is an eight-week summer residency for living in community across typical divides. Participants in the program live in Durham’s historic West End neighborhood, have paid internships with community organizations, develop practical life skills, and explore faith, meaning, and purpose. The deadline to apply is this Thursday, February 29. chapel.duke.edu/bridgeapplication
Compline During Lent | Candlelight, darkness, mystical chant, and meditative silence are the hallmarks of Compline, or Night Prayer. The service has a posture of quietly waiting and hopefully watching for the dawn of the resurrection. The Chapel is holding this ancient prayer service on Thursdays at 9:00 p.m. during the season of Lent, through March 21. The music for the services will be led by the Chapel’s Vespers Ensemble.

Interfaith Lunch Conversation | In an interfaith lunch series, Duke professors from various religions will discuss how their faith informs their scholarship and vice versa. The first meeting is Wednesday, February 28, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Chaplin Family Study Room in the Brodhead Center. It will feature Malachi Hacohen, Bass Fellow and Professor of History and Religion; Shumo Wang, graduate student in religious studies; and Kerilyn Schewel, lecturing fellow in the Sanford School of Public Policy.

National Lutheran Choir | The National Lutheran Choir will perform at Duke Chapel on Sunday, March 3, at 3:00 p.m. Their concert speaks to our shared odysseys as humans in a deeply interconnected world. From music of the Lutheran choral tradition, to the first wave of American immigrants to express that tradition in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, to today’s brilliant interpreters of an expansive sacred choral tradition, this concert evokes a world enriched by shared tradition. Purchase tickets at ticket.duke.edu.

Author Conversation on ‘Love Memory’ | On Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Bryan Center, The Rev. Racquel Gill, the Chapel’s minister for intercultural engagement, will host a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Fatimah Salleh about Salleh’s new book Love Memory: A Memoir and a Practice. In the book, Dr. Salleh describes finding love abundant in the exceptional moments of the everyday and offers a sampling of her love stories.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages. These classes are offered from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes meet in the lowest level of the Westbrook building. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for the Zoom link classes as follows.
1. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
   I’ll tell ev’rybody a- 

2. Lord Jesus, I’ll praise you as long as I journey.
   May all of my joy be a 

3. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
   to carry your cross and to 

4. I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
   but courage will come with the 

bought you wherever I go: you a- 
faithful reflection of you. May the 
share all your burdens and tears. For you 
sound of your steps by my side. And with 

lone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord 
earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord 
saved me by giving your body and blood. As 
all of the family you saved by your love, we’ll 

Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
Jesus, I’ll praise you as long as I journey.
long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.
sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.
The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.