

The Second Sunday in Lent (2021)  
**Mark 8**

**Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine; chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day.**

**Let me see my Savior's face. Let me all His beauties trace. Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee. Yes!**

**Mark 8:27–38 *And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."***

In the Name of Jesus.

Surprise! Your GOD N...E...V...E....R... tires;  
 never tires of SAVING you! Me neither! Surprise!

“...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him 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.”

Surprise!

Soooo.... What're WE gonna say in response to such startling news? Abraham suggests LAUGHTER!

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”<sup>1</sup>

Saint Paul urges rejoicing—ESPECIALLY when come the trials and suffering that slip us back into ‘falling face down in despair’ like my grandson, Samuel Paul.

You know: watching him fall flat on his face like that this week—Samuel Paul, my grandson—made me reassess the Old Testament reading:

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, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face.

PRETTY sure that FIRST face splat was not a Gospel thing; rather Law. ‘NOW El Shaddai, God Almighty, is cookin’ with GAS! He’s making a solemn charge

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ge 17:17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

and the consequences could not be more severe!’

Then...

“As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name 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 become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

‘OK. Will try to live up to that pledge...’

BUT....THEN...

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”<sup>2</sup>

HIMSELF—my grandson, Samuel Paul—must wait another 300 seconds for a plate of food. ‘And HE fell on his face to the ground.’ I guarantee, my dear ones: NOT confidence; NOT faith!

How many steps removed is Abraham’s faceplant from Peter’s satanic rebuke: ‘NONE of US is SO DESPERATE as to need you leading us to YOUR death! And then, FAR more important: what of

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<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ge 17:17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

US?!’

Surprise!

HaHa!

N...E...V...E...R... despair....of HIM!

For today He lets us know, the one who died for our sins and was raised for our justification and now ONLY lives and reigns to keep on keeping on saving us...

OH! When YOU figure that God killing OLD YOU in the waters of Holy Baptism is NOT enough.... Oh, that’s just Satan taking over in you! Silly Satan! Off you go, monkey!

Surprise!

And when you SO quickly WIPE from your heart and mind and soul and strength the purest Gospel: Pastor Fatty took ALL your sins away.... Just SUNDAY!.... But then our dream that YOU must somehow navigate around the Grim Reaper—Death—as opposed to those who are NOT oriented aright...

Oh! That’s just God’s ape doing all he knows... Did God REALLY say that

HE...LIVES...ONLY...FOR...YOU?! Come ON!

People have been asking your poor pastor 30 years now that we sing MORE 'PRAISE' types of things when we gather. For 30 years now, I have been obliging. But people keep making the request. I'll take that as the asking of FAITH: 'More! More!'

Lord, have mercy! You cannot praise the Lord MORE that to exclamation-point demand from Him throwing you more bones!

Christ, have mercy! PRAISE a-Piling up!

Lord, have mercy....UPON US! And Satan is exorcised and Christ is praised and we are all looking down to see Heaven! To see God.

Surprise! The Gospel is A...L...W...A...Y...S... a SURPRISE! We are O....N....L....Y.. W...I...R...E...D to reverence DEMANDS! Never gifts! Actually, the BIG surprise AND ETERNAL 'HaHa!' is that the deepest Breath of God blows in and out of people who CANNOT grasp Him! That's what makes That Spirit HOLY!

Surprise. Today He is here, your Lord, to save you. Can't see HIM. Can only see Pastor Stumble-Bum. Surprise.

To give you Christ's Body to eat and His Blood to drink as you fall on your face before Him. The **WHOLE YOU—OLD YOU—FEARFUL ADAM YOU**—only knows how to make a show before El Shaddai, God Almighty.

THAT is why HE...has pledged to **SAVE** you, for all eternity! Despite what you and I bring to the Lord's Table, HE brings nothing but bones to throw and grace to pour out and silencing our inner Satan.

Surprise. One more. When Doctor Martin Luther took on the role of pastor, not just lowly professor...**MAN**, was he comforting!

I've read a few times in Luther's chats how he calls himself, his body, his factory-reject self, 'A bag of worm-food!'

My fellow fertilizers: surprise! **ALL** that **WE** are going to show **THIS PLACE** of Satanic religion is that **WE** feed the worms as well as anyone else. Oh! And we also eat His Body and drink His Blood and order around El Shaddai, God Almighty!

HE, our Lord, our Savior, our King, our Brother, our Friend: HE only knows **ONE** thing to do with people like us, who deserve every worm-munch. **ALL** He knows how to do is to raise us from the mud. And forever, **OUR** response will be Haha! Surprise! Fall-on-our-face **LAUGHTER**, without end, in the Name of Jesus.