

Second Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2017 + 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church + St. Peter, Minnesota

Pastor Alan Bray Intern Caitlin Jensen Cantor Emily Bruflat

Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread & wine we serve the community and the world.

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Gathering

Gathering Music (8:15 a.m.) "Rockingham Old" (see ELW 323) Robert B. Farlee
(10:30 a.m.) "Gabriel's Oboe" Craig Hella Johnson

Welcome

+Confession and Forgiveness

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours.

Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Silence .

Merciful God,

forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

Merciful God, **We were silent when we should have said something.**

Silence.

Merciful God, **We acted when we knew better.**

Silence.

Merciful God, **We were still when we know we should have moved.**

Silence.

Merciful God, **For the wrong we have done,**

for the good we have failed to do,

have mercy on us,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People of God, look to the ☩ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

Amen.

+Greeting

+Kyrie

+Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing.

L: A reading from Genesis.

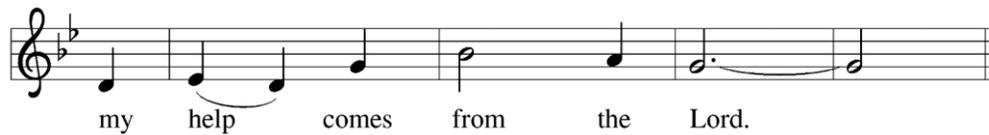
¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122 (sung responsively between Leader and Congregation)

Refrain: (sung first time by Leader and by ALL thereafter):



Tone:



I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

²**My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R**

⁵the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

**⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your ¹ coming in,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore. R**

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

L: A reading from Romans.

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For 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, ¹⁷as 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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+Gospel Acclamation (*sung by ALL*)



+Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

P: The holy gospel according to John, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have

seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Alan Bray

+Hymn of the Day *“God Loved the World”*

ELW 323

+Apostles’ Creed

Page 105

+Prayers of Intercession

+Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

Offering (8:15 a.m.) *“Gabriel’s Oboe”*

Craig Hella Johnson

(10:30 a.m.) *“For God So Loved the World”*

Hugo Distler

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
so that all who believe in him, none of them may perish;
but that they forevermore be living. Amen. -John 3:16*

+Offertory Prayer

+The Great Thanksgiving, Preface, Sanctus

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+Eucharistic Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Page 163

Communion Distribution Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Page 164

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” (Stanzas 1-3 & Lent 2)

ELW 334

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

ELW 735

+Post-Communion Prayer

Sending

+Sending Hymn *“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”*

ELW 769

+Prayer, Announcements, Blessing, Dismissal

A: We join in proclaiming:

C: Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we go in peace to serve our community and the world. Thanks be to God!

+Sending Music *“Wer nur den lieben Gott”*

J. Bert Carlson

