



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

**The Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 12, 2017**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one
God, who forgives all our sin, whose
mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (A brief silence.)
Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN “*Lift High the Cross*”

Refrain

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain
trod,**

our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.**

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ

proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.**

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ

proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!**

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ

proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

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

C: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

P: 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. At the font, we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God.

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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (A brief silence.)

C: **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Church

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

R: The first reading is from Genesis, the 12th chapter.

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

I 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.” So, Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121 – A RESPONSIVE READING

R: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

C: **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

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

**C: Behold, the keeper of Israel will
neither slumber nor sleep;**

R: The LORD watches over you; the LORD is
your shade at your right hand;

**C: the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

R: The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

C: The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

R: A reading from Romans, the 4th chapter.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He 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.” Jesus answered him,

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus 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?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The 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." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

“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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “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. “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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Meaning of “Born from Above”

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HYMN OF THE DAY

“In The Cross Of Christ I Glory”

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

THE 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P:** Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need. (A brief silence.)
God of Abraham and Sarah, God of all earth's families, bless your church to be a blessing and bestow your grace to a hurting world. Hear us, O God.
- C:** **Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, you love the entire cosmos. Help us to love all of the creatures and life within it. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, our help is in you. Keep the nations, their governments, and their people from all evil (*especially*).
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, your promises ease our pain and sorrow. Grant comfort, healing, and joy to all who are in need. (*We pray especially for. . .*) Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, lead this assembly in its Lenten journey toward faith, works of love, and prayer. Let those gathered here be fed and nourished by your word.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: O God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who have joined your saints in light. Let their lives be guides to our own. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, merciful God, we
commend all for whom we pray, trusting
in your steadfast love; through Christ our
Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

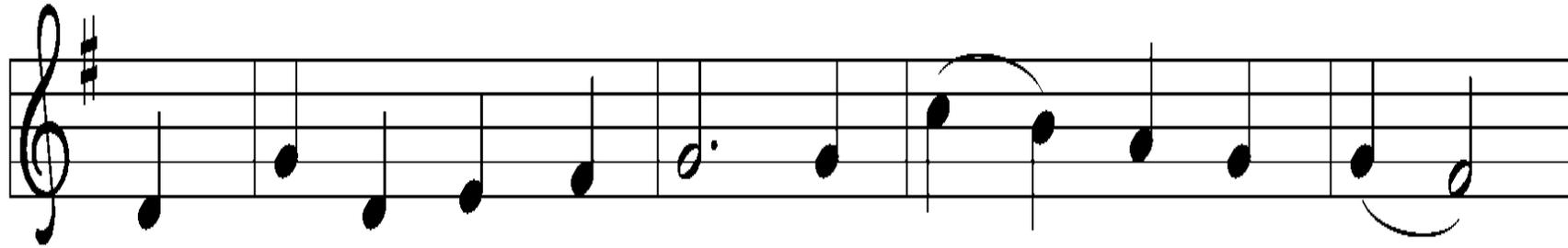
P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~

**“Amazing Love”
by Chris Tomlin**

Offertory Response



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the
Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION

BLESSING

P: The God of all grace † bless you
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May it show us where to travel,

lead us back if we should stray.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say.**

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways.
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**







































