



*⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."
John 3:5*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent – March 16, 2014

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor Rev. Ralph Storm, Guest Pastor

John Thickey, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION
Second Sunday in Lent – March 16, 2014

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRELUDE: 'Prelude' – Thomas Adams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live.

Holy God,
**we confess that we have turned away
from you and from our neighbors,
and in toward ourselves.**
**We have sought security in possessions
and the place of power in relationships.**
We have trusted ourselves most of all.
Turn us back to you, O God.
**In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness
and cleanse us from guilt and shame.**
**Guide us on the path of freedom
that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

Hear for yourselves:
There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
In the waters of baptism
grace abounds for you and for all.
God turns to you in love
and puts away every sin, every wrong turn,
for the sake of + Jesus,
the one God sent to save the world.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #660: *Lift High the Cross

***GREETING**

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

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 12: 1-4a (page 10 in the Old Testament in the front)

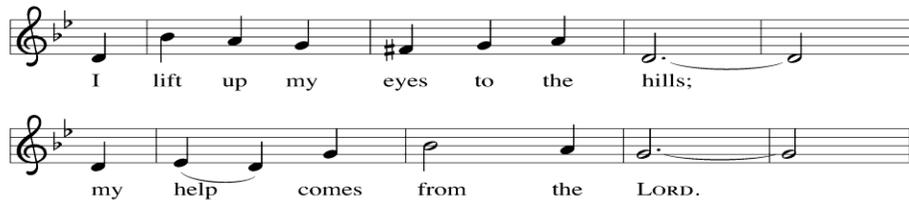
God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Now 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. 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."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121



Psalm 121:1-2
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹I 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.
⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**
from this time forth for- | evermore. R

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (pages 154-155 in the New Testament in the back)

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right 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.

What 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.

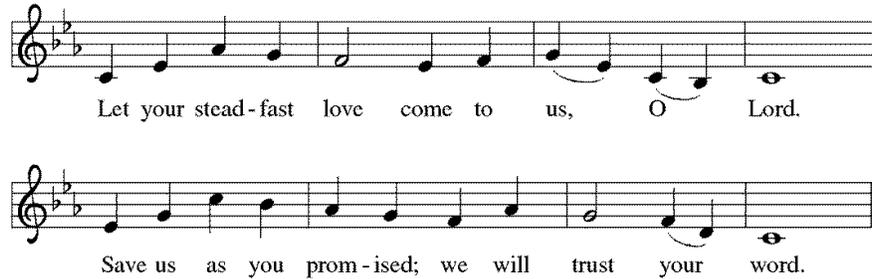
¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17** (pages 93-94 in the New Testament in the back)

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.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

Now 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?

¹¹Very 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.

¹⁶For 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.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #323: *God Loved the World

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**

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

We pray for the whole body of Christ. That being born of the Spirit and blessed by God, your church may be a blessing to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. For water and wind in their many forms, that they nourish and renew the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. For all countries, tribes, races, and families, that they live in harmony and cooperation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. For the spiritually lost, the fearful, the confused, and the ill especially Frieda, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen, that the Lord will keep their going out and their coming in. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. That having received all righteousness by faith, we boldly bear witness to a God who loves the whole world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed. For the example of faith by which they lived, that it sustain us until we all enter the reign of God in its fullness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

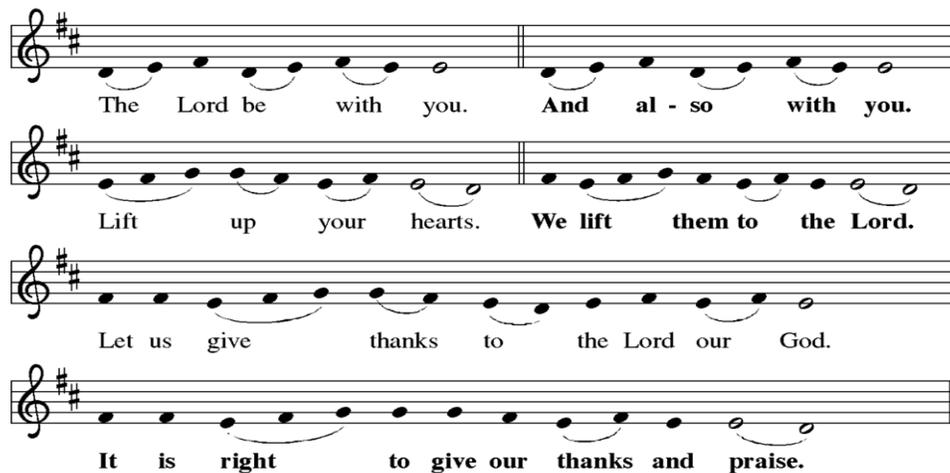
OFFERING

OFFERTORY – *Adagio* - John Bennett

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

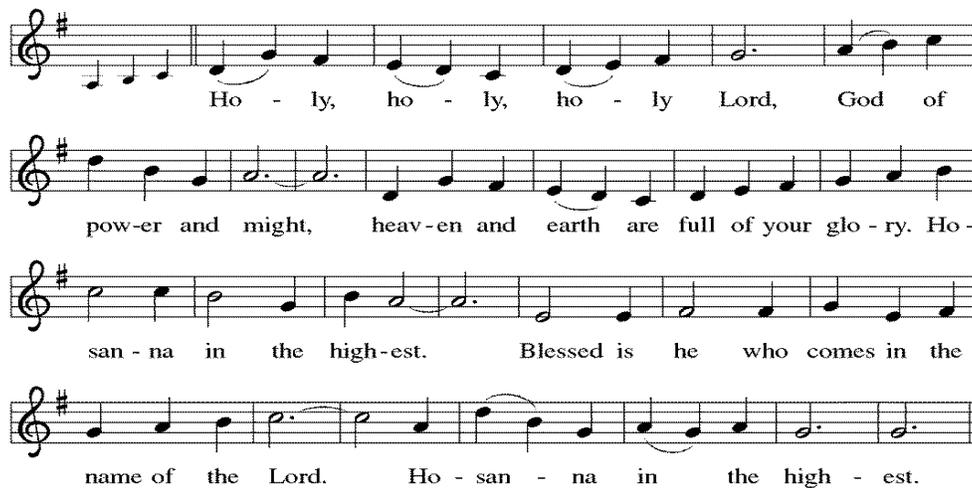


The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be

revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

***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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table prepared for you. Taste the overflowing grace of God.

COMMUNION

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape contains grape juice.

AGNUS DEI: Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #325: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG #796 How Firm a Foundation**

POSTLUDE: *'Fugue in F Minor* – Charles Burney

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Marlene Strabel

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance Last Week: 54

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,640.27

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 29,042.96

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 24,874.36

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte: Nick King

Lector:

Usher: Leikauf

Attendance last year: 69

Last Week's Giving: \$ 3,617.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$26,932.07

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