



“³⁴How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Luke 13: 34-35

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent – February 21, 2016

420 Beaver Street

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Pastor's cell: 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*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. 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 – February 21, 2016

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

PRELUDE: *Thy Holy Wings* – David Cherwien

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who brings us safely through the sea,
who gives us water from the rock,
who leads us into the land of milk and honey.
Amen.

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.
Merciful Father,
we have sinned against heaven and before you.
We do not fully live as your sons and daughters.
We use your gifts to our own ends.
Forgive us and restore us,
that we may resist all that draws us away from you,
and be at peace with one another. Amen.

We are reconciled to God through Christ;
for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us.
Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God.
Once lost, we now are found.
God clothes you in the finest robe of all,
the righteousness of + Jesus Christ,
forgiving you all your sins
and making of you a new creation.
Amen.



GATHERING SONG: *The God of Abraham Praise

1. The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2. The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
 3. The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4. Be - fore the great Three - One the saints ex - ult - ing stand
 5. The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high.

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 and tell the won - ders God has done through all their land.
 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry.

"I Am the One I Am"— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 The list - ning spheres at - tend and swell the grow - ing fame
 Hail, A - br'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays:

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the songs which nev - er end, the won - drous name.
 to you be glo - ry, might di - vine, and end - less praise!

***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

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie. It consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled 'Leader' and the second and third are labeled 'Assembly'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the first staff; 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' for the second staff; and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the third staff. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**God of the covenant,
in the mystery of the cross
you promise everlasting life to the world.
Gather all peoples into your arms,
and shelter us with your mercy,
that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 15: 1–12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27: Lord, My Light and My Salvation

1. Lord, my light and my sal - va - tion, whom in life have I to fear?
2. Though a host en - camp a - gainst me; yet shall not my heart be moved.
3. In the day of pain of trou - ble you will hide me in your tent.

You, my strong - hold, my foun - da - tion, when life's dark - ness clo - ses near.
Though their war - riors rise to slay me, still my trust in you is proved.
You, my con - stant rock and shel - ter, foil my en - e - mies' in - tent.

When the wick - ed rise a - gainst me, filled with slan - der and with hate,
This one thing will I seek af - ter: let me dwell in your ac - cord.
When you lift me high a - bove them, can I help but shout your praise?

you rise up to make them stum - ble; Lord, my light, on you I wait.
Grant me life with - in your pre - sence; let me see your beau - ty, Lord.
Joy - ful here, with - in your pre - sence, I will bless you all my days.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

For an end to killings because of faith, we turn to you, O Lord. Protect all those who risk their lives each time they worship you. Give new vision to the intolerant. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the beauty of the stars, we turn to you in thanksgiving, O Lord. By their vast number and light, remind us of your covenant with Abram and deep love for all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For peace and justice in our neighborhoods, we turn to you, O Lord. Where gangs, domestic violence, or kidnappings cause your children to live in fear, give courage and wisdom to those in authority. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For older adults with no family to care for them, we turn to you, O Lord. Surround them with social workers, medical professionals, and neighbors to support them. Embrace them with compassion and quell any fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the sick in our congregation and our community, we turn to you, O Lord. Gather all who live with illness under your wings. We pray especially for Frieda, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Make us instruments of your healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the prophets and all the faithful departed, we turn to you in thanks, O Lord. Empowered by their witness, may we stand firm in you until the day we see you face-to-face. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #790: Day by Day

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***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.

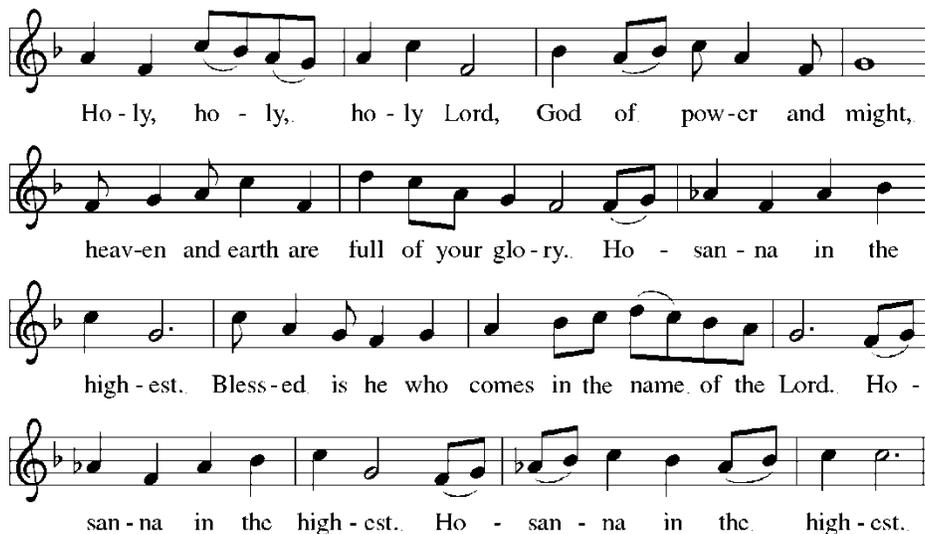
*PREFACE

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. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

***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

All who thirst, all who hunger,
come and be filled with the goodness of God.

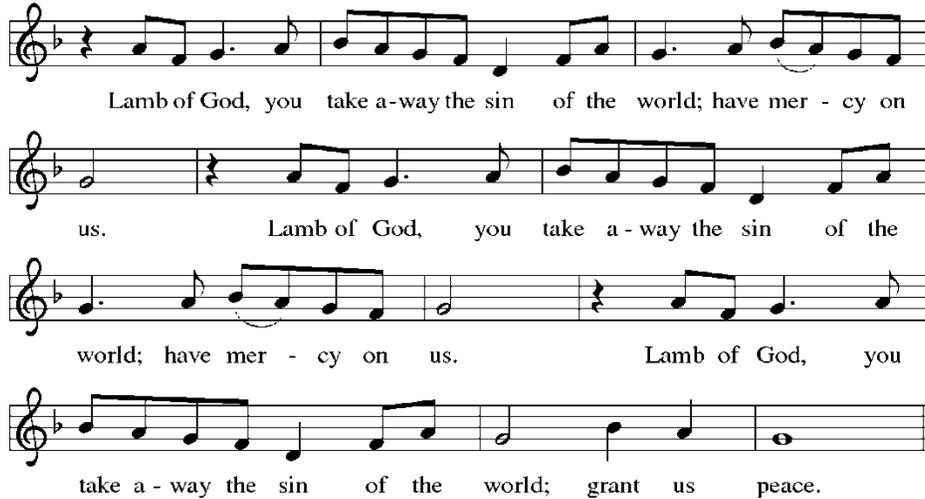
COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

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 has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *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.

COMMUNION HYMN #613: *Thy Holy Wings*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us
as a mother hen embraces her young.

Release us now to go on our way in these forty days,

ready to see our work as prayer,

ready to fast from complacency,

and ready to share with those in need;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***LENTEN BLESSING**

May you go from this place having acknowledged yourselves
as sinners in word and deed and in what has been left undone. **Amen.**

May you know always that God's response to our repentance
is never less than grace-filled and loving forgiveness. **Amen.**

May you be given the grace to forgive others as God has forgiven
you. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #727: *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *The God of Abraham Praise* – Gerald Near

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus
Communion Assistant: Ruth Ann Tully
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Larry Werner
Attendance Last Week:
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 23,618.95
YTD Actual Expense: \$ 15,948.96

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Melissa Kramer
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte: S. Julio
Lector:
Usher: Cardinal's
Attendance Last Year:
Last Week's Giving: \$ 1,815.00
YTD Receipts: \$18,243.00

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The God of Abraham Praise – Text: Thomas Olivers, alt.; based on the *Yigdal*, c.14th cent. Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody, arr. Meyer Lyon.

Lord, My Light and My Salvation – Text: Psalm 27, para. by Fred R. Anderson. Music: BLAENWERN, William P. Rowlands. Text ©1986 by Fred R. Anderson.