



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Second Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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 children 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever.

Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Borning Cry

ELW #732



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

LENTEN CANTICLE *Keep in Mind that Jesus Christ Has Died for Us*

LBW #13

A cantor or choir will sing the verses all may join in the refrain



Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the



dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.



1 If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.



If we en - dure with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.



2 In him all our sor - row, in him all our joy. In



him hope of glo - ry, in him all our love.



3 In him our re - demp - tion, in him all our grace. In



him our sal - va - tion, in him all our peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

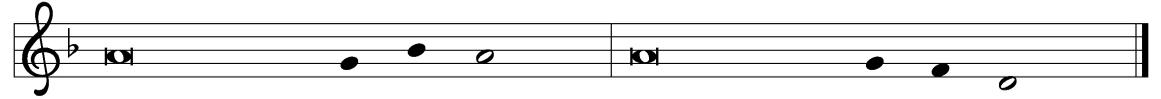
Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121

Sung responsively beginning with the cantor



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;**

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.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Return to the Lord, Your God* ELW p.142

We stand for the hearing of the gospel.

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

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* ELW #735

We stand for the hymn of the day

1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and

breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS

Response to the prayers: Your mercy is great.

We will be seated for the prayers

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

All may greet each other with a sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

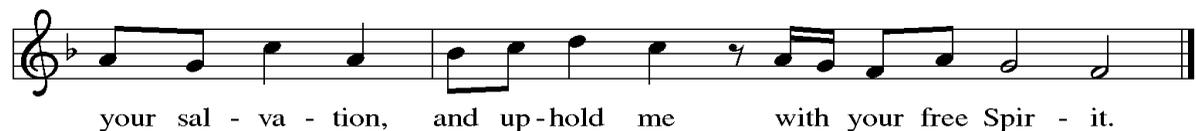
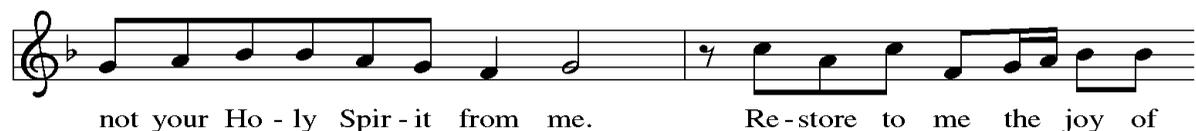
And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186



OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and generous God, by your word you show us your mercy and reveal to us your gift of grace. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN*Children of the Heavenly Father*

ELW #781

Weekly Announcement sheets are on the tables in the narthex.



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

The radio broadcast this morning is in loving memory of Ron Rasmusson's birthday, March 12, from Karen.

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<p>Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson Assisting: Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey Organist: Ruth Sheldon Ushers/Acolytes: Scott/Shelley Hagenson, Maddie Paton, Becca Holtan</p>	<p>Reader: Ryan Knudtson Altar Guild for March: Linda Helgeson, Pat Thorson</p>
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