

March 12, 2017

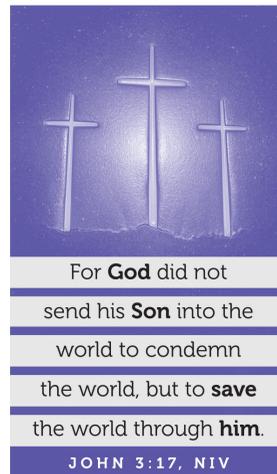
Second Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Welcome

*Hearing Assistive Devices and Large Print service leaflets are available
Please ask an usher for assistance*

Please ask an usher for a copy of the service music



The Gathering of the Community

Please remain seated as the Sanctuary Party takes their place before the service begins.

Celebrant Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Cast your burden upon the Lord,

People **And he will sustain you.**

Celebrant Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People **And renew a right spirit within me.**

Celebrant Cast me not away from your presence

People **And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Celebrant Give me the joy of your saving help again

People **And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Celebrant Blessed be the Lord day by day,

People **The God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins.

People **And make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Peace before us; Peace behind us; Peace under our feet.
Peace within us; Peace over us; Let all around us be peace.
The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Hymn #439 “Blest Are the Pure in Heart”

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Holy God, whose Spirit’s breath prompts our seeking: transform the night-time of our fear into a welcoming womb for us and all the world; through Jesus Christ, in whom we are born anew. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 12:1–4a

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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.”

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

Arrangement by Christopher L. Webber
Tune Hymn #519 Crimond

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| <p>1 I lift my eyes up to the hills,
From where shall I find aid?
My help will come from God himself
By whom the world was made.</p> | <p>3 The Lord keeps watch above his own,
And gives you shade at noon;
The sun shall not strike you by day
Nor yet, at night, the moon.</p> |
| <p>2 He will not let your foot be moved,
He watches day and night;
He does not sleep, for Israel
Is always in his sight.</p> | <p>4 The Lord shall save you from all harm,
Preserve your life in peace;
He watches as you come and go,
His care will never cease.</p> |

Be present, merciful God, and protect us in times of danger, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 4:1–5,13–17

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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

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

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn #360 “Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Holy Gospel: John 3:1–17

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Subdeacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old?”

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Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus 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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that 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 . . ."

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

A time for silent reflection is kept.

The Apostles' Creed

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Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

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The Prayers of the People

Leader We pray to you, Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #466 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of wisdom, may the light of the eternal Word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, guide us to your glory. We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving 8 [From Evangelical Lutheran Worship]

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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:

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

Hymn
#689

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer [Hymn #684]

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread #7

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Celebrant We break this bread,

People **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Celebrant Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

People **If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

Lamb of God [Hymn #690]

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People **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Communion

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Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All are invited to share in Communion. If you would rather not receive the bread and wine, please feel free to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymns

#171 "What Does the Lord Require"

#180 "Giver of the Perfect Gift"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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Celebrant All your works praise you, O Lord.

People **And your faithful servants bless you.**

Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn #447 "Lord, We Hear Your Word"

Please remain standing as the Sanctuary Party recesses in silence.

Dismissal

Subdeacon Go in peace as we walk our Lenten journey; reflect; pray; continue to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**