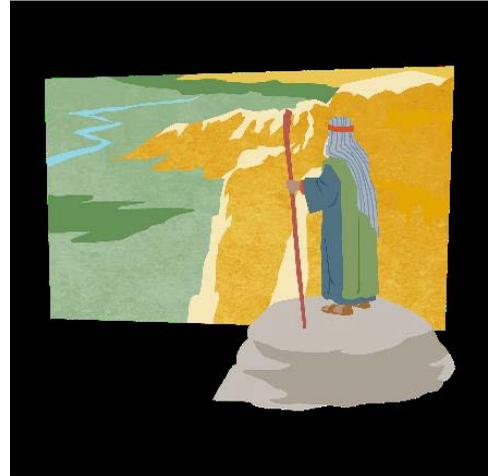


Sunday Worship
Bulletin
SECOND SUNDAY
in
LENT

10:00 a.m.

March 8, A.D. 2020



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35



The Order of Holy Communion

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER : That which is born of flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God, only that which is born of the Spirit, born from above and born anew. With Nicodemus we marvel at Jesus' words. It is hard for us to admit that we cannot save ourselves but must be redeemed from sin and its death. Even more difficult is to see in the baptismal water that power of the Spirit connecting us to Christ's death and resurrection—giving us this new birth. "How can this be?" Nicodemus marvels at Jesus' words and promise, and so are we in awe of God's gracious favor: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **418**: "*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*"

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Silence for meditation and reflection

P: O almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

P: Today is the Second Sunday in Lent, as we journey through this penitential season with its focus on repentance and renewal of our faith. In Genesis we hear how God promised that Abraham would not only father a son but also a great nation. In the Epistle we hear Paul describe the righteousness that comes through faith, not works. In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' visit with Nicodemus and His gift of new life in the Spirit through Baptism.

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 12:1–9

(God's call to Abraham and His promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation)

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. And 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 him who dishonors 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. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

(Paul describes how the righteousness of Abraham was given to him by grace through faith.)

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his

due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For 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 there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 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: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1–17

(Jesus tells Nicodemus how to be born anew through water and the Spirit.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, 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 the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **567**: *“Now What These Hands Have Done”*

(Be Seated)

† SERMON: *“A Proper Boast”* Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

(Please Stand)

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For grace that we with Abraham hear and follow the call to faith and that God count such faith as righteousness, as once Abraham was commended to God, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For grace that, having received the new birth of water and the Spirit, we daily manifest this new life and show forth the fruits of this new birth in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For grace that our government and those who lead us be equipped with wisdom and courage to do what is pleasing in God's sight, for peace among the nations, and for the protection of the unborn and the frail against threat and abuse, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For grace, that God relieve the suffering and heal the sick according to His will, that He give peace to the dying and comfort the grieving with the hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For grace that the forces of evil be hindered and for freedom that the Gospel be preached in every place and to every people, that they become with us sons and daughters of Abraham by faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For grace that we give thanks to God for all His gifts and blessings, for His mercies new every morning, and for generous hearts that we return to Him the tithes and offerings of money with our song of praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For grace, that we who approach the Lord's Table be prepared to receive there the holy body and precious blood of Christ and so be nourished and strengthened for His service, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ.

C: Lord, have mercy and grant us Your grace always. Amen.

✠ SHARING of the PEACE

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

(Please Stand and Sing Hymn Number 956: Create in Me)

Service of the Sacrament

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 to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who on the tree of the cross did give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence life might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✠ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

