

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Born Again of Water and Word
March 7 & 8, 2020
5:00pm & 8:00am

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).

WELCOME

"For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
(2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

(Through the remainder of the cold and flu season, we are going to recommend a more reserved greeting; use your discretion. However, if you are sick at all, please do not greet others; also, if you do not desire to participate, you may simply remain seated.)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #798 "The God of Abraham Praise" Stanzas 1-4 & 9 *Rise last stanza*

The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame and pow'r,
And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.

He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, To heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face; I shall His pow'r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace Forevermore.

(Rise) The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: From where does my help come?

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

Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father:

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

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

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Faithful Lord, you promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation and through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Receive our thanks for the promise kept in the gift of your Son, whose death and resurrection have paid the price of sin and reconciled us to you. Lead us to follow Abraham's example of faith, trusting in your Word and promise all the days of our lives; we pray in your holy name, whom with the Father and the Spirit, you are one God and one Lord, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *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.² 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.³ 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."⁴ 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.⁵ 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,⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this

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land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.⁸ 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.⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: 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?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 counted to him as righteousness."⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."¹³ 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.¹⁴ For 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 there is no transgression.¹⁶ 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,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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 ANTHEM

"You and I"

Grades 2-3

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:1–17* (Jesus tells Nicodemus how to be born anew through water and the Spirit.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.² 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."

³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ 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. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

SERMON

"Born of God's Spirit"

John 3:1-17

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As sons and daughters of Abraham according to the promise, we come to you this day, O Lord, to pray for ourselves, for the sick, for the Church, for the nation and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Pastor: O Lord, to Abraham you gave the promise of many descendants. Give to us faith, that we may delight in your promise ultimately fulfilled in Christ, our Savior, and never waver from trusting your Word and promises.

People: Equip us with your Spirit, that we may be bold in witness, faithful in mission, and carry your name and your Gospel to every place and people. Bless the efforts of our Groundwork Guatemala team this past week and return them safely into our midst.

Pastor: O Lord, to us you have given a righteousness not our own, bestowed upon us in Baptism, where your grace and mercy enfolds us, gifts received by faith.

People: Grant that we may have courage and conviction to live without fear and walk daily in the new life given to us in this baptismal water.

Pastor: O Lord, through patriarchs and prophets you spoke your Word. Bless all pastors, that they may faithfully preach and teach your Word. Raise up many for church-work vocations, and bless them as they prepare in college and seminary for your service.

People: Give us ears to hear and hearts to heed their preaching and teaching in your name.

Pastor: O Lord, to protect us you have established rulers and earthly authorities. Bless Donald, our president; Tony, our governor; the Congress of these United States; the legislature of this state; and all who make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Help us to preserve our liberty and use its gift wisely in the pursuit of justice and for the welfare of all people.

Pastor: O Lord, to give us eternal healing and life you sent forth your own Son as our Savior. We rejoice in the healing you worked in the life of little Nathan Halstead. For those afflicted, lift up your people from their sorrows, heal them according to your gracious will, and deliver them from the pain of death to eternal life. Hear us, we pray, especially for Doug, Edith, Norma, Marilyn, Tim, Dennis, Barb, Carol, Sydney, Diane, Dorothy, June, John, Arlene, Jerry, Nancy, Russ, Steve, Sharon, Bette, Cindy, Shirley, Bill, Katie, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley, Sarah and for those we name in our hearts. Sustain them in their afflictions and comfort them in the hour of death.

People: Comfort also the family and friends of Judi Stilley who has passed on to eternal life in glory. Grant them all hope and peace through faith in Christ.

Pastor: O Lord, you are the giver of life and all its blessings. Therefore we rejoice with the McGill family as they celebrate the birthday of RoseMarie.

People: Grant us to appreciate all the people in our lives as special gifts from you.

Pastor: O Lord, to forgive our sins and to nourish our faith, your Son has set His table among us and given us His flesh as food and His blood as drink.

People: Bless us to approach this Sacrament with faith and a repentant heart, that we may receive for our benefit all your gifts and grace given to us in this Holy Communion.

Pastor: O Lord, those who have fought the good fight and now rest from their labors dwell in glorious light and life. Help us so that we may remember with thanksgiving the blessings you showed to them in their lives and learn from their example to be faithful unto death.

People: Bring us with them into your presence, where we may behold your glory face to face.

Pastor: O Lord, your Son brought hope and the promise of new birth and everlasting life to Nicodemus. Give to us the same hope and confirm in us faith in the same promise, that we may have confidence in your grace and trust you to provide all things needed for this body and life and for everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN "A Stable Lamp is Lighted"

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices, and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches, and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry. Though heavy, dull and dumb,
And lie within the roadway to pave His kingdom come.

Yet He shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die:
The sky shall groan and darken, and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices, and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry, in praises of the Child
by whose decent among us the worlds are reconciled.

Text: Richard Wilbur, b. 1921 Music: Kurt E von Kampen, b 1960

HYMN #605 "Father Welcomes"

**Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **Refrain**

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. **Refrain**

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. **Refrain**

HYMN #566 "By Grace I'm Saved"

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught? No!
Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth; His death
did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace-grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector
Acolytes
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Noah Kegley
Marc Stefanic
Isabella Avila, Alexis Plumeri
Michelle Prince



Lenten Mid-Week Worship

Wednesday at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Lenten Meal 4:45pm

**March 11: Baked potato soup, fresh veggies, bread,
dessert, kids hot dog meal**