

St. Paul's Lutheran Family, ELCA

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Mike Patterson, Interim Pastor

BRIEF ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

SETTING II



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2023

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Family

PRELUDE: Special music by Deanna Fine and Dave Lingsjo
Hymn #614, There is a Balm in Gilead

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✝ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Hymn #321, Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church – Three verses

(Pg. 120)

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.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 OF GOD

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."

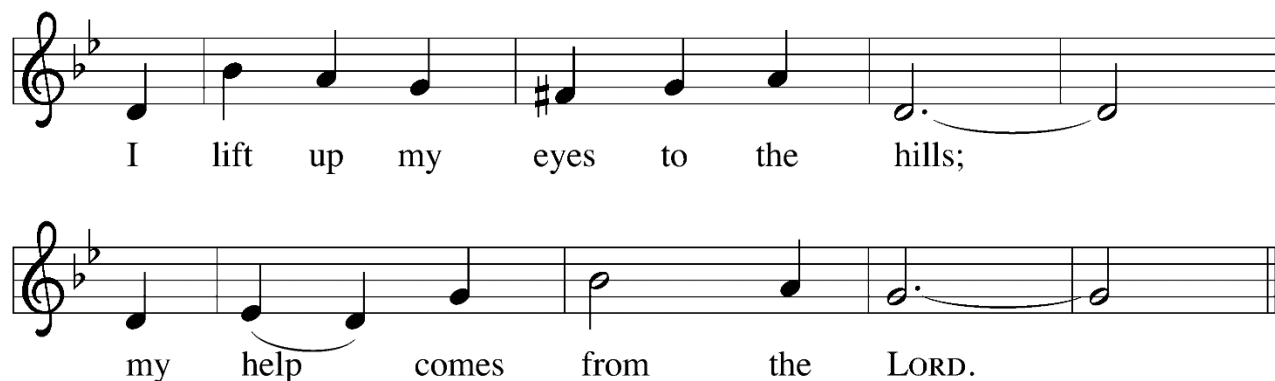
^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

Refrain



- ¹I lift up my eyes I to the hills;
from where is my I help to come?
- ²**My help comes I from the LORD,
the maker of heav- I en and earth.**
- ³The LORD will not let your I foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you I fall asleep.
- ⁴**Behold, the keep- I er of Israel
will neither slum- I ber nor sleep; R**
- ⁵the LORD watches I over you;
the LORD is your shade at I your right hand;
- ⁶**the sun will not strike I you by day,
nor the I moon by night.**
- ⁷The LORD will preserve you I from all evil
and will I keep your life.
- ⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your I coming in,
from this time forth for- I evermore. R**

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. What 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.

THE GOSPEL

(Pg. 125) **Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord.**

Save us as you promised: we will trust your word.

Save us as you promised: we will trust your word.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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 is proclaimed, concluding...)

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – Pastor Mike

CHOIR ANTHEM: Hymn #325, I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 into hell.

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.**

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially...*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of that peace.

OFFERING HYMN: Hymn #481, Come to the Table – Sung two times

HOLY COMMUNION OFFERING

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to stand and to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heart.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise.

(The minister continues with the preface of the day.)

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Pg. 130)

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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God
You are most holy and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin.
Do this in 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.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us With your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

**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, the power, and the glory, forever
and ever.**

Amen.

Come to the banquet for all is ready and all belong and are welcome to Christ's table.

(We practice open Communion with both bread, gluten free wafer, wine, or grape juice.)

(LAMB OF GOD WILL BE SUNG, Pg. 135)

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion Hymns

Hymn #333, Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land – Three verses

Hymn #331, As the Deer Runs to the River – Three verses

Hymn #490, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent – Four verses

Hymn #785, When Peace Like a River – Four verses

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A short WELCA business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th at 10:00 a.m.

This meeting is necessary to report on finances and review prior meeting minutes. It will provide an opportunity to discuss the Chili Cook-off experience and to identify what to continue and what needs improvement. Additionally, we need to identify the level of interest in having a rummage sale later this year.

All are invited to join us.

The Call Committee is scheduling the second Sunday of the month for at least the next three (3) months for Call Committee conversations. The plan is to meet directly after each service with the express purpose of

encouraging the congregation to participate in and assist with the progression of the Call Process. The first session will be a coffee hour on March 12th.

Join us today after worship service for the Ministry Fair. There will be a Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Youth Group in conjunction with the fair.



SENDING SONG: Hymn #660, Lift High the Cross – Four verses

POSTLUDE: Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Spiritual, Instrumental

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

See you next week!

Today's Worship Volunteers

Greeter – Judy McPhail

Reader – Linda Wilson

Communion Assistant – Traci Angel

Ushers – Dave Harrell and Greg Griffith

Counters – Judy McPhail and Deanna Fine

Acolytes – Clay Woslum and Greg Griffith

Youth Acolytes – TBA

Live-streaming Team – Deanna Fine and Nick Cotsonis

Musician – Dave Lingsjo

Altar Guild: Carol Arneson and Marla Johnson

Faith L.I.N.K. meets from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Jay Olshen, a severely fractured ankle; Jim Kennett, an infection in his arm; Beverly and Grant, friends of Susan Bunker-Niles, Grant suffered a stroke; David Lingensjo, knee surgery; Eric McPhail (Colin McPhail's nephew) in hospice for cancer; Brita Steyn's granddaughter born prematurely; Vera Logie, Tom, a friend of St. Paul's; Patricia Rickard, mother-in-law of Shirley Rickard, stage-4 lung cancer; Joan Yeskie; Mike Harrell (Dave and Ellen Harrell's son), COVID-19; son-in-law John Samp, a growth on his skull and spine, and daughter Vicki Ranger, early-onset dementia; Glenn Laursen; Edward Yoho; Madelene Yoho; Fern Yoho; Maxine McGregor (Madelene's sister); and a special prayer for all those living with devastating diseases and life-threatening injuries.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Audrey Stroub, rehab from back surgery; Bev Steinert, ongoing vision issues; Bob Stroub; Dick Lowther, recovery from a broken hip; Wayne Opperman; Bill Sandell; Frank and Shirley Bartlett; Bev Gutzman; Sarah Jevne; Carol Kalleres, continued health issues; James Wilson, continued health issues; Mary Ann Adamik, healing; Ellen Harrell, medical issues; Betty Razor, healing; Karen (Hone) Nolte; Hannelore Hanke; and Diana Johns.

We grieve with Teresa Vermilion and her family on the loss of her mother Ellen. Ellen passed away on February 21, 2023. May her memory be a blessing.

