



The Season of Lent is part of the Easter Cycle in the Church Year. From ancient times, Lent has been kept by faithful Christians as a 40-day period of devotion, self-denial, repentance, and giving. Even in this solemn season, we need not worry about anything, and we can pray with thanksgiving, knowing we have God’s Promise: our salvation is already won, our sins are forgiven, and we have the gift of eternal life!

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace Team*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

Wayfaring Stranger
O Come to the Altar

INVOCATION *Pastor Ben Oesch*

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS

SONG Lord Have Mercy

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 12:1-9

Travis Jarvi, Lector

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 build 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.

EPISTLE READING Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

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.

HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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.”

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT *Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!*



Children’s Bulletins are available on the entrance table.

FAITH MILESTONE: TEACH ME ABOUT GOD’S WORD *Susan Shoaf*

Something important is happening here. These families are passing on a legacy of faith as a part of the Faith Milestone Series. We are here today to bless these

children and their families as they learn about God's Word, the Bible. The parents attend a class during the Sunday School hour with their children to learn how to use their very own Bibles.

CONGREGATION SPEAKS A BLESSING

P: Shepherd of the Hills, it is our turn to bless these children. You may reach out your hands in blessing as you read the blessing in the worship folder:

C: Dear children in our family of God, God's Word is a treasure. We bless you to treasure it. Read and obey God's Word. Meet Jesus in God's Word. Blessings in your faith journey. Amen!

OFFERING AND PRAYER *for giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

SONG Holy Forever

MESSAGE "For God So Loved Nicodemus" text: John 3:1-17

The love of God in Christ is not reserved for the confident or courageous, but for the hesitant, the fearful, and the conflicted.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: 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. And 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!

PRAYERS *In our March prayers, we Pray with an Open Heart for pre-believers.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

HOLY COMMUNION: PREPARATION

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on

himself. 1Corinthians 11:28-29 Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

DISTRIBUTION

*You will be ushered forward for Communion.

*If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.

*You may request wine without alcohol and/or a gluten-free wafer.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

No One But You

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

In this Divine Service, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share HIStory!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG Jesus Remember Me

☩ **TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY!** ☩



This year, using our theme: *Praying with an Open Heart*, we will spend Lent evening services studying God's gift of the best prayer outline, *The Lord's Prayer*. Each week, concluding with Easter Sunday, we will focus on a petition of the prayer. May this time of study and rededication be a blessing to us as we make the Lent journey to its destination: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus!

Holy Week Worship

Lent Wednesday Schedule

- ◆ Soup Supper | 5:15pm
- ◆ Quiet Prayer | 6:15pm, Sanctuary
- ◆ Worship | 6:30pm, with Children's Chat

- ◆ Palm Sunday | March 29, 8 & 10:45am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday | April 2, 7pm
- ◆ Good Friday Tre-Ore | April 3, 12-3pm
- ◆ Good Friday Tenebrae | April 3, 7pm
- ◆ Easter Sunrise | April 5, 6:30am
- ◆ Resurrection of Our Lord | April 5, 8 & 10:45am

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me; and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

