

# The Divine Service

## The Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023



### AS WE GATHER

*The pages of the Bible are filled with some very human people. In the appointed Readings of the Sundays in Lent, we encounter several. In today's Old Testament Reading, we hear of Abraham, who followed the guidance of God faithfully to the land of promise. Yet in Genesis, we also read that when in a challenging situation in Egypt, he misrepresented his wife as his sister and profited from the deception. Nicodemus, to whom Jesus explained the Gospel in great detail, kept his association with the Lord a secret. Even at the time of the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion, Nicodemus labors with Joseph of Arimathea "secretly for fear of the Jews" (John 19:38). It is well that we are reminded as we confess in the Nicene Creed that "for us men and for our salvation" our Lord "was made man." As imperfect and very human people, we are assured by the Spirit that we are loved by God, who knows us as we are, and that we truly are "precious in the sight of the LORD" in life and in death (Psalm 116:15).*

### Words of Welcome

#### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

#### Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*Silence for reflection.*

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.**

**Opening Hymn "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" LSB 901, verses 1 & 3**

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
 3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
 en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
 du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
 Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
 Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
 is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
 hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.

**Kyrie** LSB 944

1 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.  
 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
 Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.  
 Chris - te e - le - - - i - son.  
 Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.

## Salutation and Collect

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, almighty Father, in many and various ways You spoke to our fathers by the prophets and now in these last days You have spoken to us by Your Son. By Your Word and Spirit, make us all the more certain that You are present with us and that here we see You face-to-face, touch and handle things unseen, grasp with firmer hand Your eternal grace, and all our weariness upon You lean; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

People: **Amen.**

## The Rite of Holy Baptism

*11:00 AM*

"This is a Joyous Happy Day"

This is a joyous happy day  
We celebrate Your gift of life.  
Christ is with us, joy surrounds us.  
Christ takes our sin and set us free;  
He fill our lives with endless life.  
Christ is with us, Christ unites us.  
Praise our Maker, praise the Spirit,  
Praise Christ Jesus.

## The Old Testament

*Genesis 12:1-9*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 4:1-8, 13-17*

Reader:

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." . . . <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>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: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Return to God

*John 6:68*

Refrain



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and



mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

## Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

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

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>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 be to Thee, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day "I Love You, Lord"

CHORUS

I love You Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship You  
O my soul rejoice  
Take joy my King  
In what You hear  
May it be a sweet sweet sound  
In Your ear

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**Sermon**

**"Can God Save Me?"**

**Pastor Scott Henze**

**Apostles' Creed**

*8:30 AM Only*

**People:** 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.

**Prayer of the Church**

*Petitions end, "Lord in your mercy" Congregation responds, "Hear Our Prayer"*

**Gathering of Gifts**

*"If God is For Us"*

*Adult Choir, 11:00 AM*

**Offertory Prayer**

**Pastor:** Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**A word about Holy Communion:** We welcome to the Lord's Table all baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in this sacrament and believe that in this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins and the power to amend our sinful lives. Children who have not yet been instructed may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over the chest thus indicating they will not receive the elements.

**Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand as you are able.*

**Preface**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



## Proper Preface

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Words of Our Lord

#### Proclamation of Christ

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

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Pastor:** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

## Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

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

People: **And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another with the peace of the Lord.*

## Agnus Dei



☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.





# Distribution Hymns

## "When I Behold Jesus Christ"

LSB 542



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
4 What love is this? Great-er love No one has ev - er known.



I won-der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

"God Loved the World So Than He Gave"

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 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.

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

## "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

LSB 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



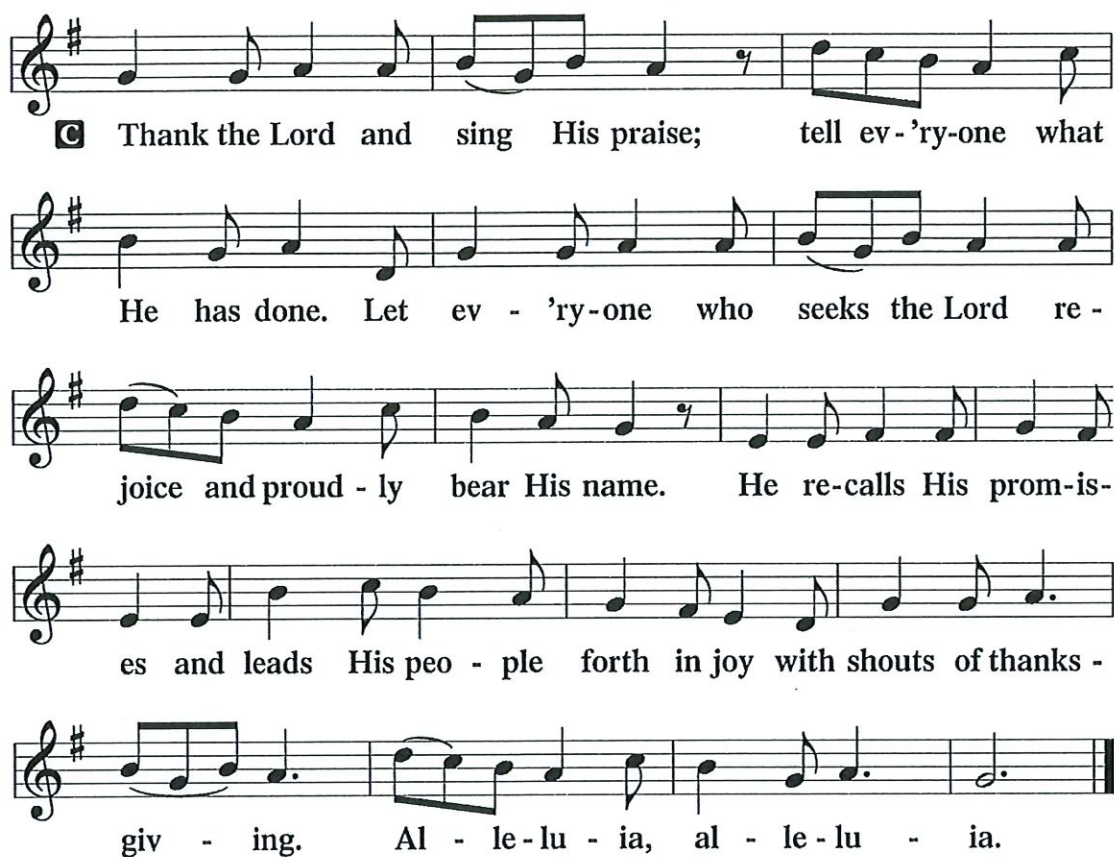
With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

## Closing the Table

## Post Communion Canticle



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Announcements

## Benediction

## Recessional Hymn

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

*LSB 918, verses 1 & 2*



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'er,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'er, Be Thou still my strength and



more;  
shield; Feed me till I want no more.  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

## Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

**People: Disciples making disciples.**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**