

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Second Sunday in Lent
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

Robert Hobby
Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Judy Albl, Altar Guild

GATHERING HYMN

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

ELW #451

- 1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious,
we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united
in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited, for he lives.
- 2 In the water and the witness,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus
who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.
- 3 Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning,
glory now resounds again
in a song that has no ending. Amen

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

GREETING

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Cross of Jesus

Robert Benson

Zach & Sandra Anderson, vocalists

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: 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.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹Now 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. 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."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 121

(read responsively)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶**The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

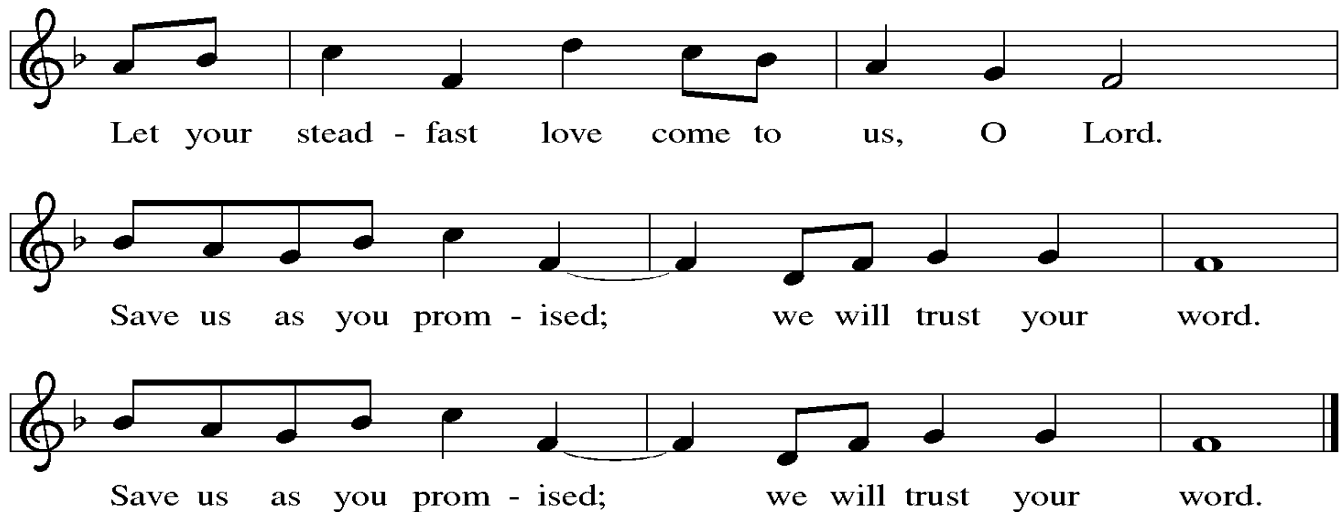
¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, 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. 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.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

ELW, pg. 125



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

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?

¹¹Very 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.

¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷Indeed, 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 of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jim Holthus

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spirit Of Gentleness

ELW #396

Vs. 1 & 3

Refrain:

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
 then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
 and over the eons you called to each thing:
 "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*
- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
 then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
 and down in the city you called once again,
 when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope,
we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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 THE CHURCH

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

Prayer response: 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "God's peace be with you" or similar words.

OFFERING

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this congregation possible. We encourage everyone to give. We encourage you to consider giving a gift online at zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving or by mail as you are able. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.



OFFERING HYMN

Restore in Us, O God

ELW #328

- 1 Restore in us, O God,
 the splendor of your love;
 renew your image in our hearts,
 and all our sins remove.
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us
 the wonder of your pow'r;
 from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
 like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
 the fullness of your joy;
 baptize us in the risen life
 that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill
 the promise of your grace,
 that we, when all our searching ends,
 may see you face to face.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LITANY

Each of us is broken by sin and less than God has created us to be, but this does not disqualify us from being touched by God and serving God in any capacity, large or small, broken as we are.

God uses broken things. It takes broken clouds to give rain, broken ground to give grain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence the words our Savior gave 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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord's Supper bringing to us

COMMUNION HYMN

That Priceless Grace

ELW #591

- 1 That priceless grace, that priceless grace,
 that priceless grace, which gave me life:
 Jesus' life is priceless grace.
 That priceless grace is life for me.
- 2 That priceless blood, that priceless blood,
 that priceless blood was shed for me:
 Jesus' blood is priceless grace.
 That priceless grace is life for me.
- 3 That painful death, that painful death,
 that painful death took sins away:
 Jesus' death is priceless grace.
 That priceless grace is life for me.
- 4 That precious word, that precious word,
 that precious word, which brought me light:
 Jesus' word is priceless grace.
 That priceless grace is life for me.

BLESSING

And now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which you have received, strengthen you and keep you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All Who Believe are Baptized

ELW #442

- 1 All who believe and are baptized
shall see the Lord's salvation;
baptized into the death of Christ,
they are a new creation;
through Christ's redemption they will stand
among the glorious heav'nly band
of ev'ry tribe and nation.

- 2 With one accord, O God, we pray,
grant us your Holy Spirit;
help us in our infirmity
through Jesus' blood and merit;
grant us to grow in grace each day
by holy baptism, that we may
eternal life inherit.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

David Cherwien