

## Sunday, March 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent, Year A



God's Gift of Eternal Life

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 121

- L: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
C: **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**  
L: The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.  
C: **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**  
L: the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
C: **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**  
L: The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.  
C: **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

HYMN *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*

ELW 448 All vss

- 1 **This is the Spirit's entry now: the water and the word,  
the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.**
- 2 **This miracle of life reborn comes from the Lord of breath;  
the sinless one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.**
- 3 **Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day  
to rise again by his design as foll'wers of his way.**
- 4 **Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal pow'r  
that washes us through all our days. Come, cleanse again this hour.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**  
All: **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.**

CHILDREN'S WORD

### FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4A

<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>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 the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. **WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For 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. <sup>14</sup>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, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For 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, <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. WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: JOHN 3:1-17

**C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He 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." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus 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?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The 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." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"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. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"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."

P: THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD. **C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON *Intern Kris Kincaid*

HYMN *God Loved the World*

ELW 323 vss.1-4

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;  
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.**
- 3 **If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.**
- 4 **Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done,  
and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.**

## APOSTLES CREED

**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

SHARING THE PEACE — *The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.***

## GRATITUDE IN ACTION—OFFERING—OFFERTORY—GLOBE OFFERING...

*Children are invited to bring forward an offering to the globe in the front of the church. Globe offerings will go to one of our global mission partners to be decided by our youth.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of good gifts,

**C: 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.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION—LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: *Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness*

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN *Thy Holy Wings*

ELW 613 All vss

1 **Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.**

- 2 Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast  
 where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.  
 Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,  
 for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.
- 3 Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.  
 Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.  
 Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,  
 and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

COMMUNION BLESSING

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

BENEDICTION

- P: God, the giver of love,  
 † Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
 and the Holy Spirit of rebirth,  
 bless you in this Lenten journey.
- C **Amen.**

HYMN *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus*

ELW 451 All vss.

- 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**

*Ringing of Bell*

- DISMISSAL L: Go in peace. Serve in love.  
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

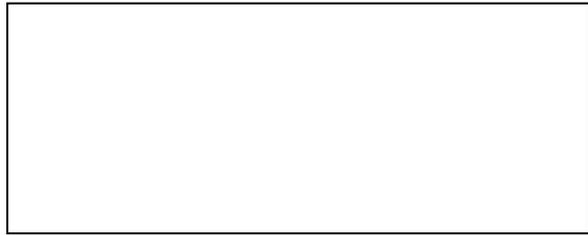


FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
309 Forest St., Kenyon, MN 55946

Worship Bulletin

**March 5, 2023**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



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