



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

502 East Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78205

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Phone 210-223-2611

March 8, 2020
Second Sunday in Lent



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God...

Prelude **Chorale arrangement on: "On the Waters of Babylon"** **Bach**

Bells

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

(silence for reflection)

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess:

**Gracious God, have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.
We have wandered from your resurrection life.
We have strayed from your love of all people.
Turn us back to you, O God.
Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever, Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
"I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn **"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"** **ELW # 527**

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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

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

God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer

Genesis 12:1-4a

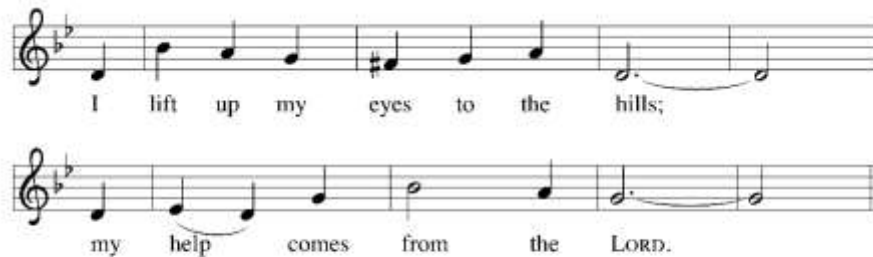
God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121



Psalm 121:1-2

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

Gospel Acclamation

(Before Gospel v. 1-2)

(After Gospel v. 3)

Keep in Mind That Jesus Christ Has Died for Us



Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the



dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.



1 If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.



If we en - dure with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.



2 In him all our sor - row, in him all our joy. In



him hope of glo - ry, in him all our love.



3 In him our re - demp - tion, in him all our grace. In



him our sal - va - tion, in him all our peace.

Text: From 2 Timothy 2

Music: Lucien Deiss, b. 1921

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The Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John:

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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children are invited to go to their Sunday lesson and activity. They will return at Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to accompany them.

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Hymn of the Day

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

ELW #588

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, 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 Intercession

*Each petition concludes: "Hear us, O God," The congregation responds: **"Your mercy is great."***

We hold in prayer: Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Arlene Schirmer, Harold Spivey, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Tia Mathre-Adams, Susan Dickson, Brad Richie, Evan Bohmann.

The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Peace

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

(Please share with those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")

MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

Offering

"Agnus Dei" from Requiem

Mozart

Offertory Hymn

"I Called to My God for Help"

LBW # 9

I Called to My God for Help

Lent

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "I called to my God for help; he heard me from his temple. His arm reached down to save and rescue me from my foes. The man - na from heav - en for Is - ra - el is his Son, the bread of life!"

Text and music © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 5: Services of the Word*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance:

**You feed us, not with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.**

**Bless us, and these gifts we bring,
these first-fruits of our own weekly labors,
that through the giving of what we have,
we may share the Bread of Life with others. Amen.**

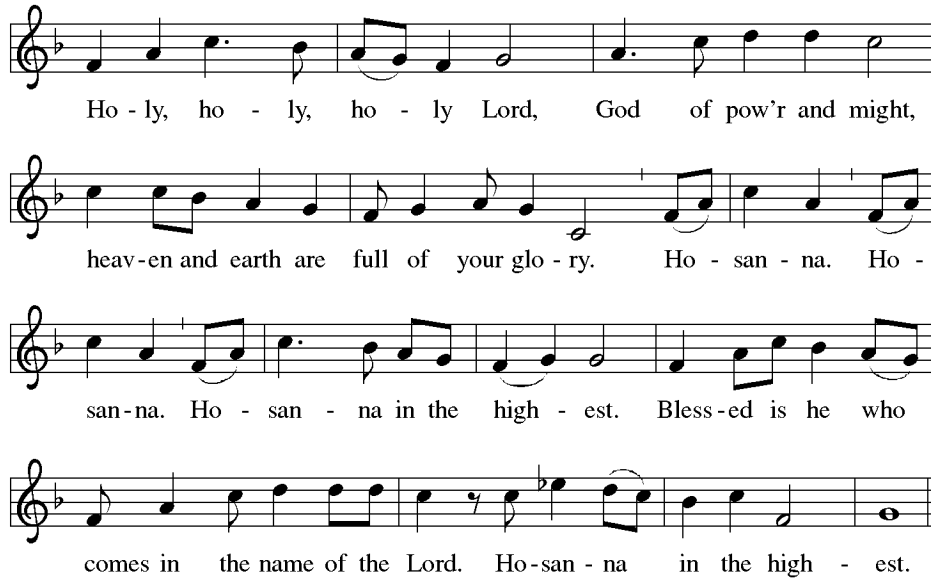
Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Blessed are you... ..we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

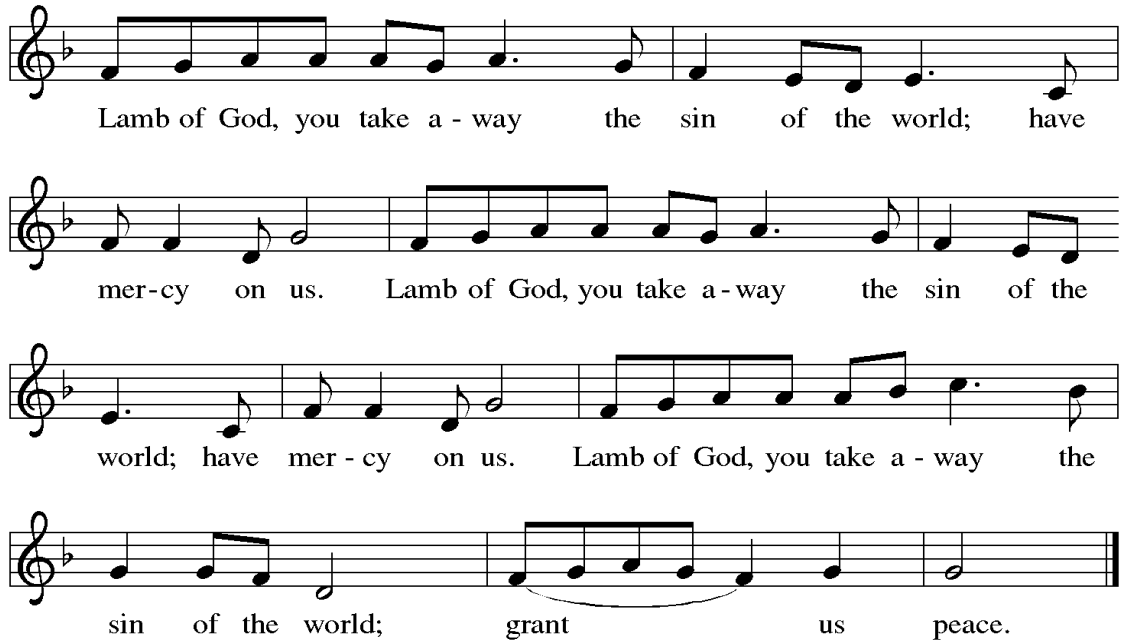
Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are all who are fed at his Table.

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.

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. Please follow the direction of the ushers. A gluten free host is available upon request.

Communion Hymns

God So Loved the World by Stainer (St. John's Choir)
ELW # 465 *As the Grains of Wheat*
ELW # 591 *That Priceless Grace*

Communion Blessing

Communion Prayer

God of both mountain tops and darkest valleys,
In this Holy Sacrament your Son has given us himself as our food,
that he may be our companion through this Lenten journey.
Send us now from this table both strengthened and changed,
to grow more and more into his likeness, Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world

Temple Talk

Rosemary Petry and Julie Shadrock

Announcements

Benediction

As you daily die and rise with Christ,
may you also each day live and serve as Christ.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

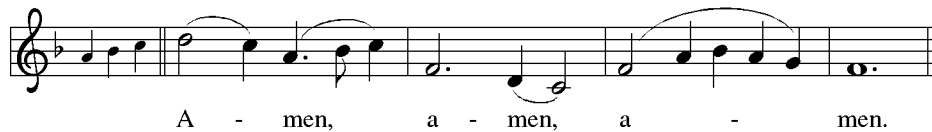
Sending Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

ELW #324

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor all people;
love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Postlude

Choral arrangement on: *"Where shall I Flee"*

J.L. Krebs

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister + Pastor James Dew

Assisting Minister + Ron Olson

Lector + Roger Steckly

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Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

Mid-Week Lenten Gatherings 2020

March 11, 18, 25 / April 1 Wednesdays

12:15 PM Word, Silence and Prayer

5:30 PM Supper

6:15 PM Word, Silence and Prayer

7:00 PM Choir Practice

April 9 Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

April 10 Good Friday

7:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

*For everyone's well-being, hand sanitizer is available
at both entrances to the sanctuary.*

This week at St. John's

Sun 8 • Confirmation Instruction 11:00 AM
Sun 8 • Mission Team Meeting 11:00 AM
Sun 8 • Easter Sunrise Planning Meeting 1:00 PM
Mon 9 • Congregation Council Meeting 6:15 PM
Tue 10 • Staff Meeting 11:00 AM
Wed 11 • Word, Silence and Prayer 12:15 PM
Wed 11 • Supper 5:30 PM
Wed 11 • Word, Silence and Prayer 6:15 PM
Wed 11 • Choir Practice 7:00 PM
Sat 14 • Shower the People with Love 9:00 AM
Sat 14 • Sisters in Christ Meeting 9:00 AM
Sun 15 • Worship Team Meeting 11:00 AM

Please see the current month's Tidings for other calendar events.

Financial Reports and Council Minutes are available in the church office by request.

Liturgical Calendar Commemorations

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604 Thursday, March 12, 2020

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. Gregory, according to popular legend, invented what is now called Gregorian Chant.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.