

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

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Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

10:00 A.M.

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Parce Domine setting by Richard Proulx

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

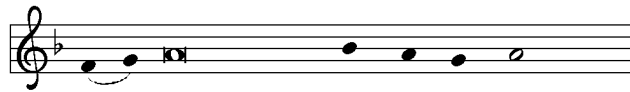
Gathering Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God (ELW 458)

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, 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.



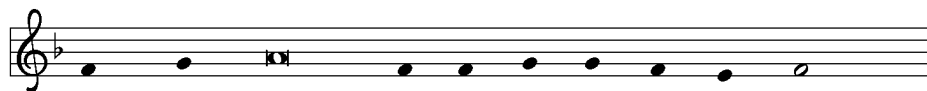
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Brief silence.

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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

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.”

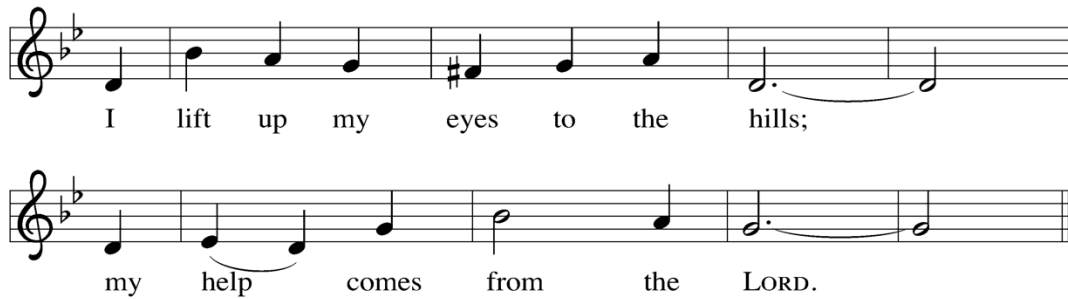
^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

C: 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

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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *(sung by the choir)*

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: 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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Kris Crawford

Hymn of the Day

This is the Spirit’s Entry Now (ELW 448)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed:

**C: 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.**

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace, with special care in our hearts for Rosemary Petry, Dottie Bowles, Chis Gates, Louis (Buddy) Blank, Mike Boehme, Brad Richie, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Gary Reiminschneider, and Betty Boenisch. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

Please stand.

Peace

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

C: And also with you. *(Please greet those nearest you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*

Please be seated.

Offering

Offertory

***God so Loved the World* by John Stainer
St. John's Choir**

Please stand.

Offertory Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

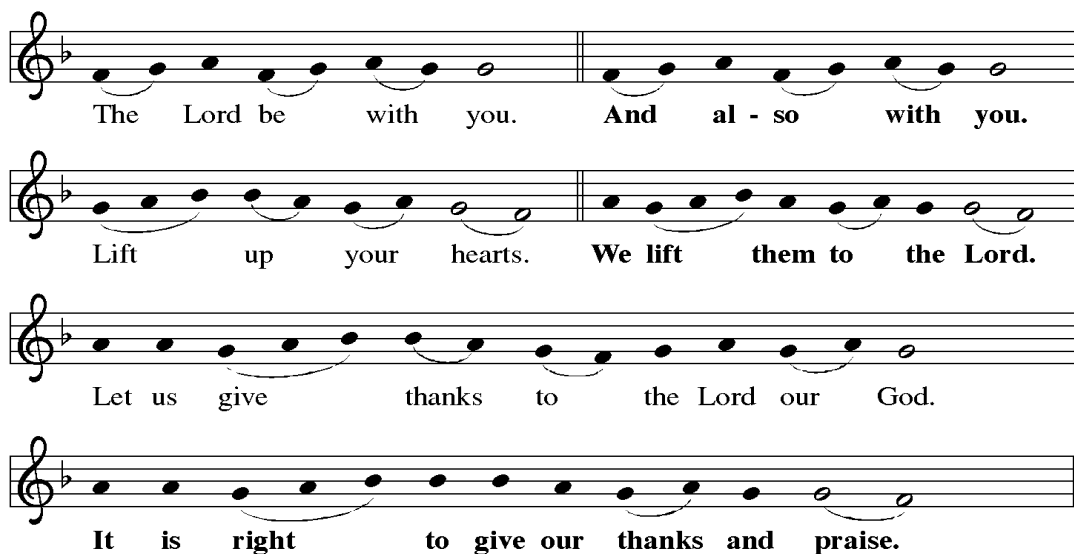
Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



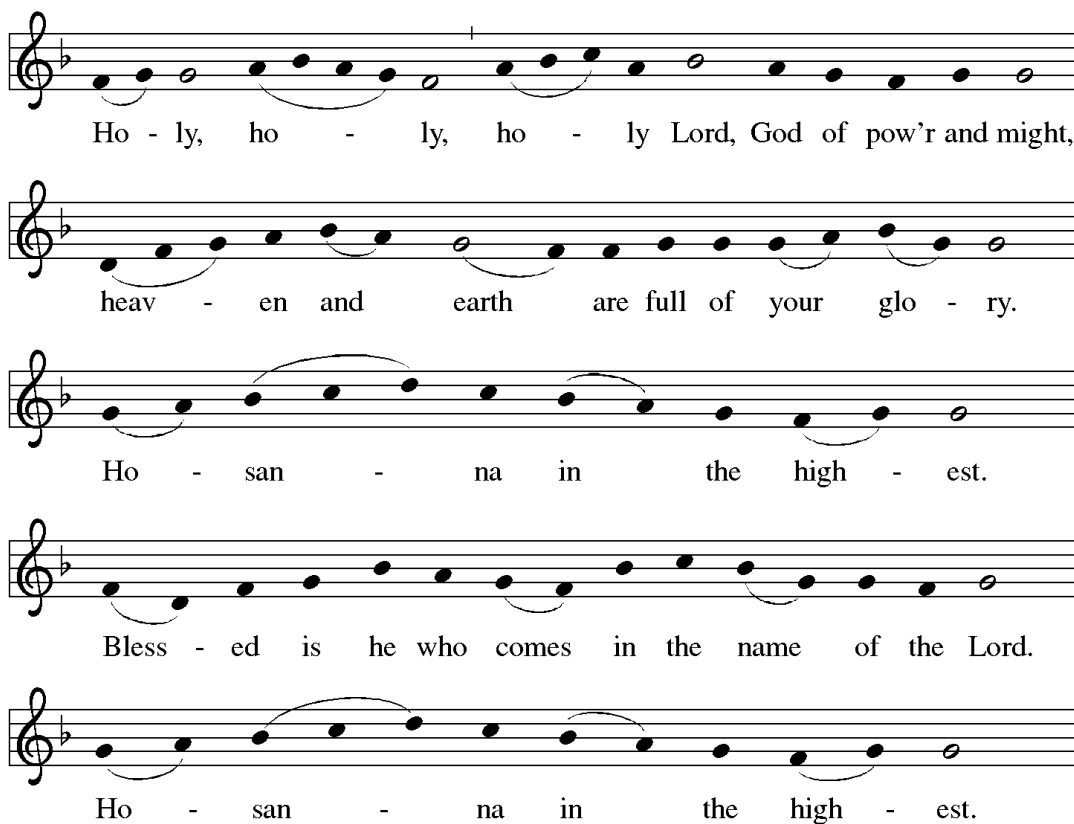
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

P: It is . . .
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.

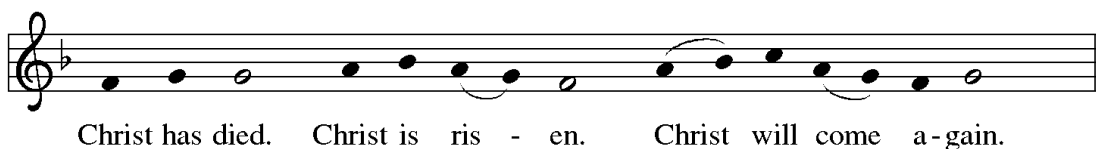
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

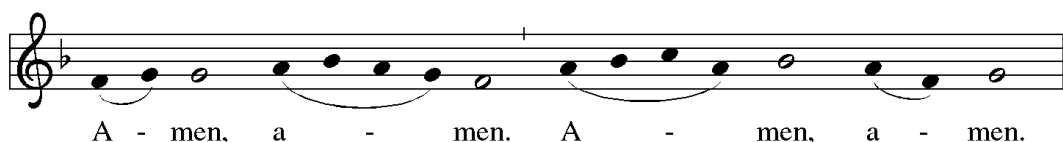
P: You are indeed holy . . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



P: Remembering . . .

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

P: When we eat this bread we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share in the blood of Christ.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.

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. A - men.

Please be seated.

Hymns During Holy Communion

Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

Come, Beloved of the Maker (ELW 306)

Holy Communion

Please stand.

Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

Benediction

P: Wherever you go, may God go with you: May he go before you to show you the way ... behind you to encourage you ... beside you to befriend you ... above you to watch over ... and within you to give you peace.
In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (St. Flavian) by David Schelat

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