

Second Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2017

Order of Worship 8:30 A.M.



WELCOME TO GRACE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sins and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

silence for reflection and self-examination

P Merciful God,

C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen

Gathering Hymn

'We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus'

451

Be seated.

Opening Litany

A Jesus said, "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

C Grant us entry into the kingdom, gracious Lord.

A Jesus said, "What is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. You must be born from above."

C Grant us birth from above, gracious Lord.

A Jesus said, "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."

C Grant us eternal life, gracious Lord, and we will praise your holy name in the way we live, today and every day.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation *'We are Turning, Lord'* p. 205

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy 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?"

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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated.
Sermon

Hymn of the Day ‘God Loved the World’ **323**

Stand as you are able.
Apostles’ Creed

p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions end:

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Peace

The people greet one another saying: ‘Peace be with you’.

Be seated.
Offering

Stand as you are able.

Offertory

'Create in Me'

188

Offering Prayer

A Merciful God,

C receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

p. 208

Be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Come to the communion rail by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. You may kneel or stand. Wine is in the common cup and tray of individual cups. If you prefer grape juice, ask the server. Children are invited for a blessing. All are welcome who believe Christ is present in this meal for the forgiveness of sins.

Hymns at the Distribution

'Lamb of God' p. 208

'Let Us Break Bread Together' **471**

'This Is the Spirit's Entry Now' **448**

'My Faith Looks Up to Thee' **759**

Stand as you are able.

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A Compassionate God,

**C 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 Christ our Lord. Amen**

Blessing

Sending Hymn

'Lift High the Cross'

660

Dismissal

A Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prayer Huddle

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Worship Assistants: March 12

Greeters: Mason – Karen & Gene Krull
East – Robbie Johnson & Family

Assisting Minister: Sharon Meier

Lector: Robbie Johnson

Communion: Ron Bailey

Ushers: Joe Wilharms, Lindsey Wilharms, Dave
Wiese & Jon Seidl

Pianist: Lois Hilger

Hospitality: Karen Krull & Sarah Kraft

Attendance 3/5: 8:30 a.m. 77
10:30 a.m. 24

H.S. Grilled Cheese Lunch 3/2: 104

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Pastor Dan Luett

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Office Manager: Sarah Bultman

In Prayer this Week

For members on the Care List especially Rose Zinck and Ellen Holz.

For those in Hospice Care especially Earl Breitenfeldt and Adeline Elias.

For Healing for Tom Jensen; Mardie Paalman, Cookie Regal's sister; Winston Augustus Smith, Cheryl Muggenthaler's nephew; Mary Langdon, Cheryl Muggenthaler's sister-in-law; Rev. Jennie Johnson Wrege; Val Sieg; Joyce Asman living at Fox Valley Lutheran Homes; Marvin Wrege.

For those with cancer especially Melissa Heins, Gene and Karen Krull's daughter; Mark Catlin; Robyn Messenger, Deb Baumbach's sister; Roger Schmidt; Bob Blaskowski.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:12



If you have a Prayer Chain request, please contact Mary Hubers (731-1428) or Susan Pringnitz (733-7591). Call the church office with requests for prayer to be put in the bulletin and/or to ask for a prayer to be relayed to the Prayer Chain.

Announcements

Basket of Promise – The third week donation for the Basket of Promise (on March 19) is one adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging. Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap. Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage or imprints of any kind.

A **Special Congregational Meeting** will be held at 9:30am on Sunday March 19th to discuss the repair or replacement of the elevator.

Midweek Lenten Services are being held each Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 p.m. These services are a joint venture with Trinity and are being lead jointly by Pastor Dan Luett and Pastor Brian Bankert.

Hospitality Volunteers are needed. Please sign up on the table in the gathering area if you are willing to provide treats between services.

Women of the ELCA Spring Event will be held on Saturday, April 1 at Gloria Dei in Neenah. Registration materials and flyers can be found on the desk in the gathering area. See Leslie Fens if you have any questions: 915-8983 or fens4usa@att.net.



Habitat Interfaith Build 2017

The Appleton Conference ELCA Churches are teaming up this spring to help with the Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build. Members of all Appleton Conference congregations are invited to join six other faith traditions in the Fox Valley to build a house on Meade Street. Our work together will make home ownership affordable for a local family. **Your help is needed** to work on the house, provide support for the workers, and/or provide a lunch for the workers. *No building skills are necessary* to help with the construction.

Construction is scheduled to start on March 28th with completion of the home in early June. The Appleton Conference ELCA Churches has been assigned 8 days for helping with the Interfaith Build. Signing up is easy. Just go to the Sign-up Genius webpage at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4eaeac2da4f58-2017> , or contact Ron Jones at 731-9250 or rjones5@new.rr.com.

Welcome to Grace

Whether you are a member or visiting for the first time, may God's grace surround you today. Fill out one of the cards in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate to share your contact information and any needs. There is also a guest book to sign in the gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, you are welcome here.

GRACE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 12.....8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:30 p.m. Appleton Pentecostal Assembly (APA)

Monday, March 13.....6:30 p.m. Joy Circle
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, March 14.....8:30 a.m. Quilters
6:00 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Fox Valley Chorus

Wed., March 15.....9:00 a.m. TLC Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship
6:45 p.m. AA Meeting
7:00 p.m. APA Bible Study
Newsletter Deadline

Thu., March 16....10 a.m. H.S. Grilled Cheese Lunch
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting
6:30 p.m. Trinity Singers

Friday, March 17.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, March 18.....9:00 a.m. Hmong Service

Sunday, March 19.....8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:30 p.m. Appleton Pentecostal Assembly (APA)