

**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**Second Sunday in Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, March 12, 2017

## Second Sunday in Lent

9:00am

### INTRODUCTION

*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 daughters and sons 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.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING HYMN:

“Lift High the Cross”

#660 ELW

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**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.**

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.

**Amen.**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

### 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.**

*Please be seated*

**First Reading: 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.*

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

**Psalm Psalm 121**

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

**Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

## **Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the reading of the Gospel*

### **Gospel: John 3:1-17**

## **Glory to you, O Lord**

*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.*

<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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

## **Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

### **SERMON**

**“The Apostle’s Creed”**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Rock of Ages”**

**#623 ELW**

### **APOSTLE’S 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 into hell. 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**

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of all earth’s families, bless your church to be a blessing and bestow your grace to a hurting world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, you love the entire cosmos. Help us to love all of the creatures and life within it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, our help is in you. Keep the nations, their governments, and their people from all evil (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, your promises ease our pain and sorrow. Grant comfort, healing, and joy to all who are in need. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, lead this assembly in its Lenten journey toward faith, works of love, and prayer. Let those gathered here be fed and nourished by your word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who have joined your saints in light (*especially the bishop Gregory the Great*). Let their lives be guides to our own. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Merciful God, 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.**

**LORDS PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

**Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #807 ELW**

## DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**

### THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal  
Greeters: George & Kathy Larsen  
Ushers: Wally & Bev Swenson  
Lector: Val Benton  
Hospitality Hosts: Val Benton & Jeannine Bruesewitz

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 5, 2017: 9:00 am 69

Wednesday, March 8, 2017: 6:30 pm 29

### THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

March 13 thru March 19, 2017

Monday	3/13	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/14	9:00 am 10:00-12:00	Quilters Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/15	8:00-12:00 8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	WIC Bible Study Stitchers Potluck - Table Talk "The Apostle's Creed" Worship-Holden Evening Prayer Praise Team practice
Thursday	3/16	8:00am 12:30 pm	ROMEOS Fun Timers
Friday	3/17	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/19	9:00 am	Worship

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

## **PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS**

- Annetta Shandy (relative of George & Patti Smith)
- Arlene Westerlund
- Gloria Westerlund
- Safe travel for all and protection from the cold.

**ELCA Presiding Bishop** addresses President Trump's refugee executive order. A copy of this is available in the Narthex. Pick one up on your way out today.

**TAX STATEMENTS** are available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall. So are your 2017 Giving Envelopes

**CALL COMMITTEE FOR NEW PASTOR** On the table in the Narthex you will find double sided forms with information about the Call Committee that will lead the search for our next Pastor. Please prayerfully consider applying for this important Committee and help our church identify our next Pastor. The church will be receiving applications over the next couple of months, but if you feel called to apply, there is no better time than now to do so.

## **REFORMATION 500 – LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM**

	Wednesday's in Lent	
Sunday's in Lent	5:30pm Potluck/Table Talk	
9:00am Service	6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer	
March 12 The Apostle's Creed	March 15	The Apostle's Creed
March 19 The Lord's Prayer	March 22	The Lord's Prayer
March 26 Holy Baptism	March 29	Holy Baptism
April 2 Holy communion	April 5	Holy Communion

**MEMORY GARDEN PAVERS** We are taking orders for memory garden pavers. Order forms can be found in the Nature Trail/Memory Garden mailbox and placed in there again when completed. Thank you!

**PLEDGE FORMS** Reminder to send in or drop off your pledge forms for the new parish house fund drive.