



Third Sunday IN LENT

Grace Lutheran Church
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*Kendall L. Stelter, Pastor | JoHanna Buchholz, Intern Pastor
Emily Stelter, Membership Care Director | Tammy Wager, Youth Director*

March 15, 2020 ~ 8:30am

During lent we journey with all those around the worlds 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 children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to a new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Service of the Word

**Indicates where the congregation is invited to stand.*

If standing seems long or difficult at times, feel free to remain seated.

Gathering

Prelude

Chris Lehne, Organist

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **C: Amen.**

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

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for 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.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

C: 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.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Word

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now 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. 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.” ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Response

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

What 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. 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. 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.

Response

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

*Gospel

John 3:1-17

P: The holy gospel according to John.C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now 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.

*Response

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Only God”

“no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.”-John 3:5b

Hymn of the Day

“God Loved the World”

Hymn No 323

*Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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After each petition, please respond with “Lord, Hear our prayer”

Thanksgiving

Offering

It is a blessing to have you listening or watching with us this morning. Offerings are given as an act of worship for those who consider Grace Lutheran or Providence Valley Lutheran their home congregation.

Visitors should not feel obligated to give an offering for our ministry.

During this time of uncertainty, our congregations still rely on the gracious giving of our members.

Grace Lutheran has options to give online via our website, gracedawson.org under the Online Giving tab or you can download our offering app on your phone! Simply search for "Give +" in your App Store and set up your account!

As a reminder to Thrivent Financial members, please direct your Choice Dollars to Grace or Providence by March 31, 2020.

Donations for Grace or Providence can be brought to the Grace Church Office at anytime.

Offerings can also be mailed to:

*Grace Lutheran Church
PO Box 549
Dawson, MN 56232*

*Providence Valley Lutheran Church
2495 120th Street
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Contact the office for help with any of these options.

*Offertory Hymn

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Hymn No. 186

*Thanksgiving for the Word

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

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.

Sending

*Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Hymn No. 324

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Chris Lebne, Organist