

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. 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. 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.’

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;

SECOND READING. Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But 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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

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, 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.

GOSPEL. John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ 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?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” 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.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

‘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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘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.

‘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.



Sunday, March 5, 2023

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

**Welcome!**

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

**Lenten Worship**

On our journey through Lent, we welcome everyone to our Midweek Lenten Gatherings via ZOOM. Join us on Wednesday at 6:30 PM as we informally explore the Beatitudes.

**Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation.**

**Setting 1**

Throughout the season of Lent some of the liturgy comes from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, Setting 1. Lily will briefly practice the gospel acclamation for Lent (page 103) with the congregation before the service begins.

**If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.**

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**St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**



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Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn .....905-734-4746

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Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power. Amen.

From Sundays & Seasons, © 2022 Augsburg Fortress.  
From Enriching Our Worship 1, Supplemental Liturgical Materials prepared by The Standing Liturgical Commission 1997. Page 19.

Psalm 121 – Tune: 840 Now Thank We All Our God (nun danket alle gott)

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made the earth and heaven.

He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

He watches day and night;  
His promise sure is given:

The Lord will guard you; he is by your side to protect you.

No pow'r of night or day  
Can vex your spirit sore.

The Lord will preserve you from all evil; he will keep you safe.

The Lord will guide your ways  
Both now and evermore.

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| TODAY    | Council Meeting after the service   |
| March 8  | 6:30 PM – Midweek Lent via ZOOM each Wednesday in March.<br>Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: <a href="mailto:bartsterc@gmail.com">bartsterc@gmail.com</a> |
| March 12 | Daylight savings time begins. Turn clocks AHEAD by one hour.  |

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness .....Printed  
Greeting  
Kyrie (Setting 10) .....Page 203  
Prayer of the Day  
Gathering Song .....445 Wash, O God, Our  
Sons and Daughters

WORD

First Reading ..... Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121 .....printed in bulletin  
Second Reading ..... Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
Gospel Acclamation for Lent .....Page 103  
“Glory to you, O Lord.”  
Gospel ..... John 3:1-17  
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day ..323 God Loved the World  
Prayers of Intercession  
Prayer Response .....“receive our prayer.”  
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer  
Great Thanksgiving (spoken) .....Page 107  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Lord’s Prayer .....Page 112  
Communion  
“Lamb of God...” .....Page 112  
Communion Hymns .....735, 457  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song .....660 Lift High the Cross

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve in love.  
Thanks be to God.