



*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our  
Savior Jesus Christ.”*

*2 Peter 3:18*

Second Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2017



## **TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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### **Welcome!**

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service today we gather before our heavenly Father to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. May he bless our worship and study today!

### **For Your Convenience**

- Kid's church is available for children 3 years old to 2nd grade prior to the sermon.
- Restrooms are available down the hallway on the right.
- If you would like a hearing device to assist you for worship, please speak with one of the ushers.
- The ushers are at the entrance of the sanctuary to answer any other questions you might have.

### **Today's Focus**

The gift of God comes by faith to all nations. Not a holy life, not acts of obedience, but simple trust in the promise of God brings the gift of living water for thirsty souls. Abraham believed God's promise and so became not only the father of a nation, but the forefather of the Promised Seed who would bless all peoples. He had faith in God who justifies the wicked, and so God credited it to him as righteousness. By this same faith, Christ gives righteousness to all who believe and enfolds sinful Samaritans and modern Gentiles like us into the family of God.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## OPENING HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now  
*Christian Worship Hymn 98; st 1, 4 & 6*

Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;  
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish  
Of your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.  
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above Sing your praise forever.

## INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

L: Satan often uses our sins to try to separate us eternally from the love of God. The story of God's love shared during the Lenten season assures us that God will never stop loving us. In his grace and mercy, he offers us full and free forgiveness in the blood of his Son. Assured of his forgiveness, let us join to carry our sins to Jesus' cross where we will find that forgiveness.

**C: Before you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I humbly fall.  
I see my sins against you, Lord My sins of thought and deed and word.  
They press me sore; to you I flee: O God, be merciful to me!**

**O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in wrath away!  
Let your good Spirit ne'er depart, But let him draw to you my heart  
That truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!**

*(Christian Worship Hymn 306; st 1, 2)*

## **ABSOLUTION OF SINS**

L: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray...

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

<sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

<sup>8</sup> From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. (NIV 1984)

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121  
*Christian Worship page 112*

I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The LORD watches over you, the LORD is your shade at your right hand.  
The LORD will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

<sup>4</sup> Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup> However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. (NIV 1984)

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Philippians 2:8b

L: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

## GOSPEL

John 4:5-26

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." <sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

<sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."  
(NIV 1984)

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH** <sup>1</sup>

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

God Loved the World So that He Gave  
*Christian Worship Hymn 391; st 1-4*

God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save  
That all who would in him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ is the solid rock of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death.  
All who confide in him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die—His Son with saving grace is nigh.  
His Spirit in the Word does teach How we the blessed goal may reach.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives the sins that you have done.  
You're justified by Jesus' blood; Baptized, you are a child of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther's explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed.

## SERMON

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

“Praise God’s Plan to Cancel Your Debt”

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT

*The Lord's Supper is a blessing from God through which he strengthens our faith.*

*It is also an expression of our faith.*

*If we have not had the opportunity to talk to you about our beliefs, we ask that you wait before you join us for the Lord's Supper.*

## THE PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.



**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is good and right so to do.**

L: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

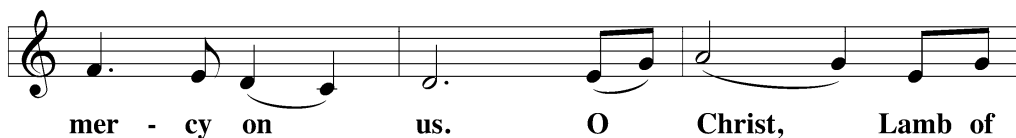
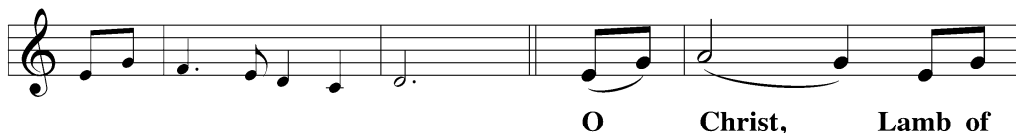
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

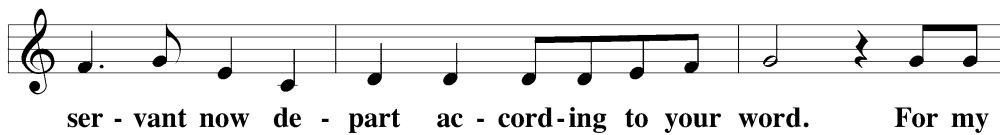
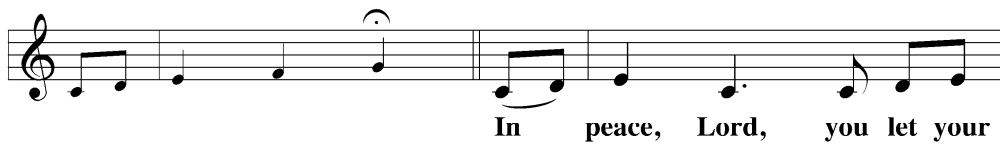




### DISTRIBUTION

### SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: And his mercy endures forever.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

L: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name  
*Christian Worship Hymn 321*

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.  
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With thee began, with thee shall end the day.  
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon thy name.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep thy people free,  
For dark and light are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.  
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.