



**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
March 5, 2023**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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717-532-4614**

**Welcoming all  
Reaching out in love  
Growing together in Christ  
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name**

**Reverend Michael Allwein  
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Pastor Mike is on vacation March 6– 25, 2023**

***Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!***

**Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.**

## **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 children 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.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *"My Song Is Love Unknown"*

*- Held*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Kneel as you are able.*

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.*

**Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**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.**

*Please stand*

*This is the Spirit's entry now: the water and the word,  
the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.*

*This miracle of life reborn comes from the Lord of breath;  
the sinless one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.*

*Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day  
to rise again by his design as foll'wers of his way.*

*Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal pow'r  
that washes us through all our days. Come, cleanse again this hour.*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**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*

## WORD

### 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM Psalm 121**

**READ RESPONSIVELY**

<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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL**

**John 3:1-17**

*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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON** *"Asking Directions at Night!"*

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"God Loved the World"*

**ELW 323**

*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 Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.*

*If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.*

*Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done, and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.*

*All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!*

## **APOSTLES' 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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## OFFERTORY

*The Ushers will collect the offering*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Please stand*

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.**

**Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE - LENT

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to fullness of your grace. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Read Together*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,

Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all

People for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.*

*Please stand*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.**

**Amen.**

## SENDING

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** *"Peace Go With You"*

**Senior Choir**

**SENDING HYMN** *"How Firm a Foundation"*

**ELW 796**

*How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."*

*"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."*

*"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

**POSTLUDE** *"Marche de Fete"*

*- Becker*

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Jeanne Naugle**

**William Porter  
Dorothy Railing  
Betty Reilly  
Polly Cora Sherman  
All Caregivers**

## **Church Staff**

**Interim Pastor  
Pastor Michael Allwein**

**Organist  
Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Senior Choir Director  
Brandy Welsh**

**Bell Choir Director  
Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator  
Amy Piper**

**Preschool Director  
Shirley Perry**