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*Fir-Conway Lutheran Church*

*18101 Fir-Island Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98273*

[*www.firconwaylutheran.org*](http://www.firconwaylutheran.org)

*A Congregation of the ELCA*

*2nd Sunday of Lent*

*March 5th, 2023*

A few notes of welcome…

*Presider: Pastor Kristi Lambing*

*Acolyte: Jacob Rohloff*

*Lector: Scott McKnight*

*Accompanist: Jon Glastra*

*Communion Assistant: Kelly Leifer*

*Communion Set up/Bread: Sue Townsend*

*Ushers: Trevor & Andrea Nipges*

*Coffee Hour: Rick & Renee, Craig & Michelle*

*Offering Counters: Rick Bowzer*

***All*** *are invited to receive the bread and wine of communion. The white juice is grape juice. There are gluten free wafers available.*

*The indicates when to stand, as you are able. The* ***bold lettering*** *is when the assembly participates.*

*We are very thankful that you joined us today!*

Welcome

*Confession and forgiveness*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism*

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 I promise you! God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**Amen.**

*Gathering Song*

*ELW # 324 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” vrs 1,2,4*

*Greeting*

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

***And also with you.***

*Kyrie & Glory to God-in the front of the Cranberry Hymnal, Communion setting 4 pg.147*

*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***

*1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a*

*A reading from Genesis*

1The 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.” 4aSo Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

*Word of God, word of life.*

***Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 121

1I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
 2**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**  
 3The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.  
 4**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**  
 5the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
 6**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**  
 7The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.  
 8**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*

*A reading from Romans*

1What 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.  
 13For 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.

*Word of God, word of life.*

***Thanks be to God.***

*Gospel Acclimation*

*Diagram

Description automatically generated*

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

The Holy Gospel according to John

**Glory to you O’Christ**.

1Now 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.”

*Word of God, word of life.* ***Thanks be to God.***

*Time with Children*

*Sermon*

*Recordings of the sermons can be found at* [*https://www.firconwaylutheran.org/podcasts/media*](https://www.firconwaylutheran.org/podcasts/media) *; each Monday the latest sermon will be posted onto our website.*

*Hymn of the Day*

*ELW # 323 “God Loved the World” vrs 1,4,5*

***Apostles Creed***

***We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***We 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 to the dead. 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.***

***We 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 the People*

*Response…Merciful God,* ***receive our prayer.***

***Amen. (****Please remember the Engbrecht family in your prayers as Barbara continues on Hospice.)*

*Peace*

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

*Choral Group*

*Offering (If you would like to give an offering electronically, please go to our website at* <https://www.firconwaylutheran.org/give>  *where an online donation can be given.)*

*Offering Response “We give thee thine own” pg 686 verse #1*

*Offering Prayer*

***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***

*Communion*

*Great Thanksgiving*

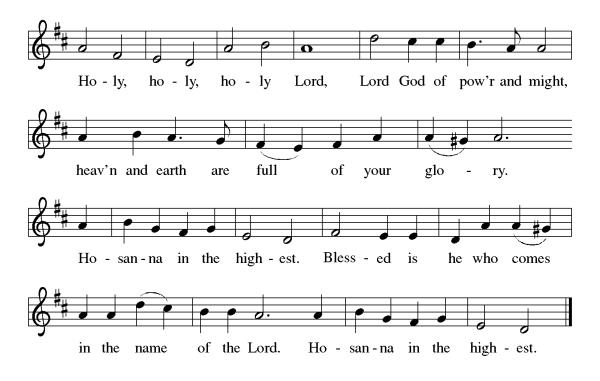
***And also with you.***

***We lift them to the Lord.***

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

*Preface*

*…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

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*Words of Institution*

*We proclaim the mystery of faith:*

***Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again…***

*Grace our table with your presence once again.*

***Come, Holy Spirit…***

*burning with justice, peace, and love.* ***Come, Holy Spirit***

*…now and forever.*

***Amen.***

*Lord’s Prayer*

***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.***

*Communion Invitation*

*All are welcome to join us for Holy Communion. Please indicate if you need a gluten free cracker.*

*Communion Blessing*

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you. 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.***

*Communion Prayer*

***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***

*Announcements*

*Lefse for sale $7.00 per package*

*If you or your child(ren) are interested in Baptism, please let Pastor Kristi know.*

*March 6th Lenten Bible Study at 1 p.m., each Monday afternoon through Lent.*

*March 8th Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer at 6 p.m., each Wednesday throughout March.*

*Bring your easter candy to donate towards the Conway Community Easter Egg Hunt at Conway School on April 8th.*

*May 7th Celebration of our graduates from Middle School, High School, and College. Please get to either Pastor or our Secretary Kathy, the names of those graduating so we can celebrate them. If your graduating High schooler is interested in a scholarship, please reach out to our Scholarship Committee for an application.*

*If anyone is interested in a First Aid/CPR class, please let Pastor or Renee know*

*We are looking for ideas on how to clean the sanctuary and fellowship hall/kitchen.  If anyone is interested in cleaning the church or has a person they can recommend if they could please let Pastor or Renee know.*

*April 14th-16th Tulip Festival stand, we are looking for 3 people to help coordinate the scheduling of volunteers and the sale of items. If you’re interested in helping out, please contact Pastor.*

*Our online directory can now be accessed through our website; please checkout* [*https://www.firconwaylutheran.org/pages/current-members*](https://www.firconwaylutheran.org/pages/current-members) *if you have difficulties accessing, please contact Pastor.*

*Ringing of the bell*

*Blessing Choral group*

*Sending*

*ELW# 660 “Lift High the Cross” vrs. 1,3,4*

*Dismissal* ***Thanks be to God.***

*3/12 Stewards*

*Acolyte: Dylan Bryan*

*Lector: Scott McKnight*

*Accompanist: Jon Glastra*

*Communion Assistant: Kelly McKnight*

*Communion Set up/Bread: Carolyn Conner*

*Ushers: Scott & Kelly McKnight*

*Coffee Hour: Diane & Dennis, Laurie & Mike Olds*

*Offering Counters: Dave Reep, Scott McKnight*