

# PINNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“You Must Be Born Again”*

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2023

## T AS WE GATHER T

### *The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus*

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram *“a great nation,”* to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to *“all the families of the earth”* (Gen. 12:2–3). *“Abram went, as the LORD had told him”* (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan *“he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD”* (Gen. 12:8). He *“believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”* (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He *“justifies the ungodly”* (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord’s promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which *“gives life to the dead”* (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, *“that whoever believes in him may have eternal life”* (John 3:14–15).

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: #422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0crAhMho6M>

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 3:4, 8*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of**

**Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## **T SERVICE OF THE WORD T**

**INTROIT** Psalm 121; 1-8 antiphon: v. 8  
*(spoken responsively as marked)*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

<sup>6</sup>**The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

## **KYRIE**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

### **SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 12:1–9*

<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>And 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 him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

L **This is the Word of the Lord.**

C **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**     *Hebrews 12:2 (spoken together)*

**O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**EPISTLE**     *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For 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 there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <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.

**L     This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C     Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *John 3:16 (spoken together)*

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL** John 3:1–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, 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 the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** # 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK6TdX7QME4&list=RDGK6TdX7QME4&start\\_radio=1&rv=GK6TdX7QME4&t=18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK6TdX7QME4&list=RDGK6TdX7QME4&start_radio=1&rv=GK6TdX7QME4&t=18)

**SERMON:** *“You Must Be Born Again”*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life T everlasting. Amen.

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition:* P ... Lord, in Your mercy:  
C **hear our prayer.**

*At conclusion:* P ... one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.  
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us,  
Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey  
Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may  
live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.  
C Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN: #427 In Thy Cross of Christ I Glory**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk-WMVYK1MM>