

Leave your
country and
go to the land
which I will show you.
Genesis 12:1



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Introduction

In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the baptism 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.

Welcome and Announcement

(please stand)

Call to Worship (*inspired by Psalm 139*)

P: We've come to worship God,

C: who loved us before we were yet born,

P: who knows us even better than we know ourselves,

C: whose presence never leaves us,

P: and whose love for us never ceases.

C: This is our God.

ALL: Let us worship together!

Gathering Hymn: (*loose music*)

You Are My King

1. *I'm forgiven because You were forsaken I'm accepted; You were condemned.*

I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is with-in me because You died and rose again.

Amazing Love, how can it be that You, my King, should die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true; it's my joy to honor you, In all I do, to honor You.

2. *I'm forgiven because You were forsaken I'm accepted; You were condemned.*

I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is with-in me because You died and rose again.

Amazing Love, how can it be that You, my King, should die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true; it's my joy to honor you, In all I do, to honor You. In all I do to honor you.

You are my King, You are my King Jesus, You are my King. You are my King Amazing love, how can it be that You, my King, should die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true; it's my joy to honor You, In all I do, to honor You. In all I do to honor You. In all I do let me honor You.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Let us pray together...

P 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.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise: (purple) #70 I will call upon the Lord (2 times)

(please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S 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 God.

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."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation #7 Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

C 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. A right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises.

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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Hymn: (purple) #39 For God so loved

Message Encounters with Jesus-Born of the Spirit Pastor John Omans

Message Song (purple) #69 Borning Cry

(Please Stand)

Apostles' Creed (cranberry) pg. #105

The Prayers of the Church

Hymn #92 Lord, listen to your children praying

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's Peace)

(please be seated)

Stewardship Minute

In the Bible the word “stewardship” means to manage something on someone’s behalf. The steward is not the owner, but the “care-taker.” Whether a family member, friend, employer, or God, asks you to watch over something, then you're stewarding – “care-taking” – whatever they have entrusted to your care. We could speak of stewardship of the earth, or our bodies, or our possessions, or our communities. On Sunday, January 30th, we will have our Annual Meeting for St. John Church. I encourage you to think about our stewardship of this church’s mission and ministry. Your input is needed at this meeting. Thank you for your good Stewardship of the mission and ministry of St. John!

Offering Invitation (*offering may be placed in offering plates located at corner of side aisle*)

Offering Response: (*purple*) #146 **We Are an Offering**

Lord's Prayer (*cranberry*) pg. #112

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father in heaven...

SENDING

Blessing

P: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

(please stand)

Sending Song (*purple*) #43 **Glory and praise to our God**

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Christ is your light.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PLEASE WAIT FOR USHERS TO EXIT YOU OUT OF PEWS.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Al Tonn

Guitarist: Mike Harvey

Acolyte: Mia Mitchell

Reader: Dennis Sommers

Ushers: Dennis Sommers, Mark Sommers

Council Person: Kyle Gallagher

Videographer: Gyles Randall

Facebook Live:

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.