

WELCOME

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker	Preschool Director
Ms. Jerry Starner	Organist
Mrs. Andrea Wendling	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band	10:30AM Music
Mr. Jim Schroeder	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Katie & Camille Zeigler	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Stremming	8AM Elder on Duty
AJ Radloff & Alex Gordon	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Weis	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Hayden Wendling	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Stremming 217-821-3891	Elder on Duty for March 9- 13, 2020
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Chatelain School & Baja School	Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions	through our District and Synod

CHRIST is important to us
in our worship
in our study
in our fellowship
in our lives.

YOU are important to us
in our worship
in our study
in our fellowship
in our lives.

HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John's will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

HIS GOAL FOR US:

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God's children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John's, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

WELCOME CENTER

Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with the living Savior and membership in His Church.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

CELL PHONES

Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

HOLY COMMUNION

When the members of St. John's Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord's Supper we confess the Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ's Body and Blood are present "*in, with and under*" elements of the Holy Supper. (*Luther's Small Catechism*) Members should register their intent to commune on the pew card. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to our Pastor or the elder on duty before the Service.

AS WE GATHER

Abraham is a great example of faith. As we often pray for faith and good courage to the Lord who has called us "to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown," Abraham lived with this courage. From Haran to Canaan, Abraham was led by the hand of God toward the unfolding future God had prepared in the incarnation of His only-begotten Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. During Lent we join with Abraham of old and all the saints in trusting the Lord through the unknown tomorrows to the outcome and end we do know in Christ—everlasting life.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

BELLS - CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “The God of Abraham Praise”

798 (vv. 1-4, 9)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 121:1–2; Philippians 1:6

Pastor: From where does my help come?

People: **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father:

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

(the Hymn of Praise is omitted in Lent)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Faithful Lord, You promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation and through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Receive our thanks for the promise kept in the gift of Your Son, whose death and resurrection have paid the price of sin and reconciled us to You. Lead us to follow Abraham's example of faith, trusting in Your Word and promise all the days of our lives; we pray in Your holy name, whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1–9

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. ²And 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. ³I 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.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And 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, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then 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. ⁸From 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. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

EPISTLE

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

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

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For 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. ¹⁴For if 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 there is no transgression.

¹⁶That 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, 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

John 3:16

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

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” #425

CATECHISM: *The 10th Commandment and Meaning.* p. 322

SERMON “Promises, Promises” *Romans 4:16*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For grace that we with Abraham hear and follow the call to faith and that God count such faith as righteousness, as once Abraham was commended to God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace that, having received the new birth of water and the Spirit, we daily manifest this new life and show forth the fruits of this new birth in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace that those who lead us in our homes and our nation be equipped with wisdom and courage to do what is pleasing in God's sight, for peace among the nations, and for the protection of the unborn and the frail against threat and abuse, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace, that God relieve the suffering and heal the sick according to His will, that He give peace to the dying and comfort the grieving with the hope of the resurrection, [*especially. . .*], let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace that the forces of evil be hindered and for freedom that the Gospel be preached in every place and to every people, that they become with us sons and daughters of Abraham by faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace, that God grant His blessing to our Church and all who serve, including... and to all of God's people as they fulfill their baptismal vocation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace that we give thanks to God for all His gifts and blessings, for His mercies new every morning, and for generous hearts that we return to Him the tithes and offerings of money with our song of praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace, that we who approach the Lord's Table be prepared to receive there the holy body and precious blood of Christ and so be nourished and strengthened for His service, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy and grant us Your grace always. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“O Christ, You Walked the Road”

#424 sts. 1, 3

**O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand’ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r
And fought our ancient foe.**

**No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.**

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001224

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

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

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

[Psalm 136]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy God, mighty Lord, You raised up Abraham to be a child of Your promise and the patriarch of a great nation in which You would display Your glory for the salvation of all people. You fulfilled Your ancient promise with the gift of Your only Son, who, born of the Spirit and the Virgin, manifested Your saving will and purpose by living for us the holy life of obedience and, at the appointed time, gave Himself in our place upon the cross, there to redeem us with His passion and to save us by His blood. Because He did this for us, we now receive His body crucified and His blood shed in this blessed Communion, where He gives us Himself under forms of bread and wine, according to His own Word and promise. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Revelation 22:20

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(p. 210)

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“By Grace I’m Saved”

566

“Not What These Hands Have Done”

567

BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS

p. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

#922

POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

