

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## March 5, 2023 – Second Sunday in Lent

***Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life***

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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.

**WELCOME** ***(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)***

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

**PRELUDE**

***I Owe the Lord a Morning Song***

**Women's Ensemble**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**C: From where will my help come?**

L: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son

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

L: Everyone who believes in him will not perish but may have eternal life.

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

L: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world.

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

L: But in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Gracious God,

**We confess that we fail**

**to be open to your vision for the world.**

**In our confusion amid all that is unfinished in our lives**

**we close ourselves off from**

**where and how your Spirit calls.**

**Forgive us,**

**and open our hearts and minds**

**so that cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,**

we may live into the new life you have bestowed upon us, for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of the world. Through Jesus Christ,  
**Our Savior and Lord,**  
**Amen.**

God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world. Buried with Christ by baptism into death, Your sins are forgiven in +Jesus' name.

Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,

You are raised to new life.

Almighty God strengthen you in faith

To live each day renewed in God's call for your life. **Amen**

# **GATHERING SONG**

## ***Baptized in Water (ELW 456)***



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.**

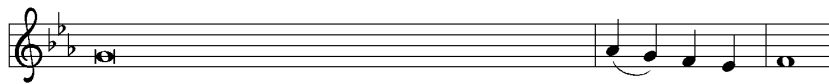
## KYRIE (ELW p. 98)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



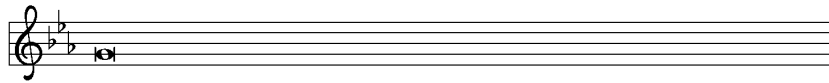
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

## **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

A reading from Genesis.

<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.**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

A reading from Romans.

<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.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

One does not live by bread alone, **but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.** (Matt. 4:4)

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

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

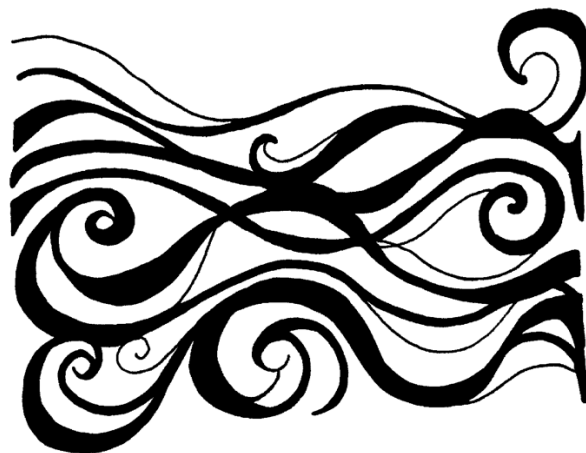
<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<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.**

## **SERMON**



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Great God, Your Love Has Called Us (ELW 358)



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

## CREED (ELW p. 104)

**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 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.

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

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

O God of Love, as we journey through Lent, we contemplate our own sin and brokenness. Surround us with the warmth of your forgiveness as we turn from our selfishness, doubt, and desire to be in control. We pray for the strength of faith like Abraham, who trusted fully in you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Merciful Lord, your Scriptures tell us that we can't love God whom we have not seen, if we don't love our brothers and sisters in this world. Help us to embrace everyone and to extend our kindness as we follow Christ's teaching to love our neighbors as ourselves. Inspire us to make you the priority in our lives, share the Good News, forgive others, and work for equity and justice. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Christ, we pray that your Spirit of Peace will spread throughout our broken world. Bring peace to places where chaos and violence reign, so people living in fear will be healed. Bestow on all the world's leaders the wisdom to pursue compromise and end war, torture, and revenge. Protect and comfort all who serve in the military, veterans, and the families of military personnel. We also pray for safety for millions of refugees and people dealing with the effects of disasters. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Creator, we are deeply grateful for all the amazing ways you bless our lives with the gifts of safety, family, friends, work, food, and warm shelter. Show us to how to share our abundance with those in need. Inspire us to be careful stewards of your beautiful world, to care for everything in nature, and to use the Earth's resources wisely. Empower us to recognize and use our many talents to their fullest. Bless all pastors, bishops, and lay church leaders. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, and other happy occasions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Healer, we pray for all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. We also lift up those who deal with long-term diagnoses, such as addictions, cancer, dementia, and depression. Pour your balm on them and restore them to wholeness. Watch over our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy

and companionship. Bless all medical personnel and researchers with the wisdom to find cures. Grant patience and strength to all caregivers so they may provide the best care and compassion. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of mercy, listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Comforter, we pray for those who are dying and the loved ones of those who have passed away. Rest your peace, strength, and hope on the family and friends who mourn. Remind us of the promise of eternal life with you. Lord in your mercy, ... **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

## OFFERTORY

### *He Shall Feed His Flock*

Women's Ensemble

## OFFERTORY SONG

### *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.'

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.  
Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

### DIALOGUE

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

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 prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the 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 their unending hymn:



### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

In 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)**

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

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**

**BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

*We Are Called (ELW 720)*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

***SERVING TODAY:** Preside/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Stephen Chikosky; Time with Children: Jane Unger; Livestream: Sam Hanson; Greeter: Linda Batey; Ushers: John Deno, Nick Claussen; Acolyte: Rachel Prange; Children's Church: Kay Cleland, Melody*

