

Second Sunday in Lent - March 5, 2023

LOVE GOD ♦ LIVE THE WORD ♦ SERVE OTHERS ♦ SHARE CHRIST



Holy One, through the Sacrament of Baptism you bring us into your kingdom and grant us eternal life for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Keep us faithful to your holy will, trusting in your promises of salvation and new life for your whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ♦ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ♦ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ♦ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ♦ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ♦ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

▼ MUSICAL PRELUDE / PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *(Spoken, adptd. from LBW, p.193)*

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and grow in the fulness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen**

Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being: forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ HYMN "CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING" LBW #97

▲ KYRIE (*Sung*)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all... **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken*)

Let us pray. Holy One, through the Sacrament of Baptism you bring us into your kingdom and grant us eternal life for the sake of your Son, Jesus. **Keep us faithful to your holy will, trusting in your promises of salvation and new life for your whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

▼ FIRST READING - Genesis 12:1-9 (*Pew Bible, p. 10*)

▼ SECOND READING - Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 (*Pew Bible, p. 1119*)

▼ KCJAM CHOIR / CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE (*Sung*)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - John 3:1-17 (*Sung, Pew Bible, p. 1055*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY - "IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY" LBW #104

▲ APOSTLES' CREED (*Spoken*)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH (*Spoken*)

▼ CHOIR ANTHEM - "RAIN DOWN YOUR MERCY"

▲ OFFERTORY (*Sung; LBW 502, st. 1*)

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tow'r; Thee will I love, my joy, my crown!
Thee will I love with all my pow'r, In all thy works, and thee, alone;
With true devotion willingly, My life I offer now to thee.**

▲ OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Spoken*)

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 him thanks and praise.**
It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS (*Sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

▲ AGNUS DEI (*Sung*)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*Sung*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

▲ POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; do first what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the (+)Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen**

▲ SENDING HYMN - "WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER" LBW #346

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Fight the good fight of faith. **Taking hold of eternal life to which we've been called.** (*1 Tim. 6:12*)

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional First Sunday in Lent – March 5, 2023

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might through him be saved.” – John 3:16-17

We have heard this passage so many times that it ceases to shock or surprise us. To us its meaning is clear, and we don't need to think about it. And based upon the word “whoever,” we think that the passage emphasizes the breadth of God's love. But this is not the case. Although the passage certainly affirms the breadth of God's love, it emphasizes the depth of God's love. This is clear from the words “so” and “world.”

Another way of saying that God so loved the world is to say that God loved the world so very much. Here we see that “so” emphasizes the intensity or depth of God's love. In a similar way, “world” also emphasizes the depth of God's love. To see this point, note that “world” may be taken in at least two senses. “World” may refer to all the people in the world (i.e., the whole wide world), or it may refer to the world in its sinful state (i.e., the fallen world). The first sense emphasizes the world's breadth whereas the second sense emphasizes the depth of its fallenness.

Although this passage alludes to the first sense of “world,” it is the second sense of “world” that receives the emphasis. After all, it is precisely the depth of the world's fallenness that sets forth the depth of God's love by contrast. God's love is so deep that He gave his only Son, not for a righteous world but for a fallen one! Moreover, God's love is so deep that He gave His Son to save this fallen world, not to condemn it. The depth of the world's fallenness shows us the depth of God's love. During the season of Lent, we confront our sin and struggle against it. In so doing, we quickly realize that we are not only sinful and unclean but also bound in sin and unable to free ourselves. When this reality hits home, we long for the security of God's love. At such times, we should move beyond our complacent understanding of this passage and let its deeper meaning shock us into confidence. Although God's love is certainly broad enough to encompass the world, it is also deep enough to save sinners like us. God so loves the world that He reaches out for us even when we are afraid to seek Him.

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