

# YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
March 12, 2017 + Second Sunday in Lent  
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*(we stand)*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. *(1 John 1:6-7)*

*(Silence for self-reflection and examination)*

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.** *(from Psalm 51)*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. For thus says the Lord: A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and will give you a heart of flesh. You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

*(from Ezekiel 36:25-28)*

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**                      **OFH # 11**                      ***“Great is Thy Faithfulness”***

### KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this house and for all who worship here, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

(we sit)

**CHILDREN'S WELCOME SONG**

**"Sanctuary"**

**(sung by the congregation)**

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** (then children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and younger may attend Children's Church)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Genesis 12:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Now 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 121**

**(read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

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

<sup>7</sup>The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Romans 4:1-8**

<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 believes in 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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(we stand)

**(11:00 a.m.) GOSPEL HYMN**

**"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"**

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.*

**GOSPEL**

**John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

*(we sit)*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Ken Reed**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

**LBW # 479**

***“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”***

**PRAYERS & APOSTLES' CREED**

As we seek in this Lenten time to grow in our faith, let us pray for the life of the world.

*(after each prayer petition...) Lord, in your mercy,*

***hear our prayer.***

Grant these prayers, merciful God, and all that we need as we eagerly await the Easter feast; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*(8:30 & 11:00am service)* **ANTHEM**

***“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”***

**Karriker Quartet**

*(we stand)*

**OFFERTORY**

*Come, you thankful people come; Raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in;  
Ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker does provide; For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Good and loving God,

**We give you our hearts; we give you our lives: all our gifts belong to you. We give you our trust; we give you our love: all we have from you, O God. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

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.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

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. Amen.**

*(we sit)*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**OFH # 26**

***"It is Well with My Soul"***

*(we stand)*

**BLESSING & RESPONSE**

May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(1 Thessalonians 5:23)*

Let us pray.

**Lord, let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel. Amen.** *(Luke 2:29-32)*

**SENDING SONG**

**OFH # 4**

***"Blessed Assurance"***

**BENEDICTION & SENDING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**AMEN.**

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**WE WILL! THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**POSTLUDE**