



BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT

JOHN 3:5

**ELW Service of the Word pg. 210
March 5th, 2023**

PRELUDE**"HE REIGNS"****"THE GOD WHO STAYS"****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****GATHERING****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L) In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C)**
Amen.

L) Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C) Amen.**

L) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

L) Most merciful God,

C) we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L) God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C) Amen.

PEACE

L) The peace of Christ be with you always.

C) And also with you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING: We are asking that Sunday School kids bring their offering up front and are released for Sunday School at this time.

GATHERING SONG

"This is Amazing Grace"

KYRIE (SPOKEN)

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

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

C) Lord, have mercy.

L) 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. **C) Lord, have mercy.**

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

L) Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C) Amen, amen.**

GREETING

L) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C) And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L) The Lord be with you **C) And also with you.**

L) 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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

L) The Word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

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

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over

you fall asleep.

⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴If 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, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For 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, 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.

L) The word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

C) The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

GOSPEL

L) The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd Chapter.

C) Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"MIGHTY TO SAVE"

APOSTLE'S CREED

L) Living Together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 INTERCESSION

L) Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

L) O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God, **C) receive our prayer.**

L) O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, **C) receive our prayer.**

L) O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, **C) receive our prayer.**

L) O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress (*especially*). Merciful God, **C) receive our prayer.**

L) O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

C) receive our prayer.

L) O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God, **C) receive our prayer.**

L) We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C) Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

"IF WE ARE THE BODY"

OFFERTORY

CREATE IN ME

ELW 186

OFFERING PRAYER

L) Let us pray.... God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

L) Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C) we give you thanks and praise.

L) By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C) we give you thanks and praise.

L) Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C) we give you thanks and praise.

L) Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **C) Amen.**

L) Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING**BLESSING**

L) The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C) Amen.

SENDING SONG

"HOSANNA, PRAISE IS RISING"

DISMISSAL

L) Go in peace. To Love and Serve the Lord. **C) Thanks be to God.**