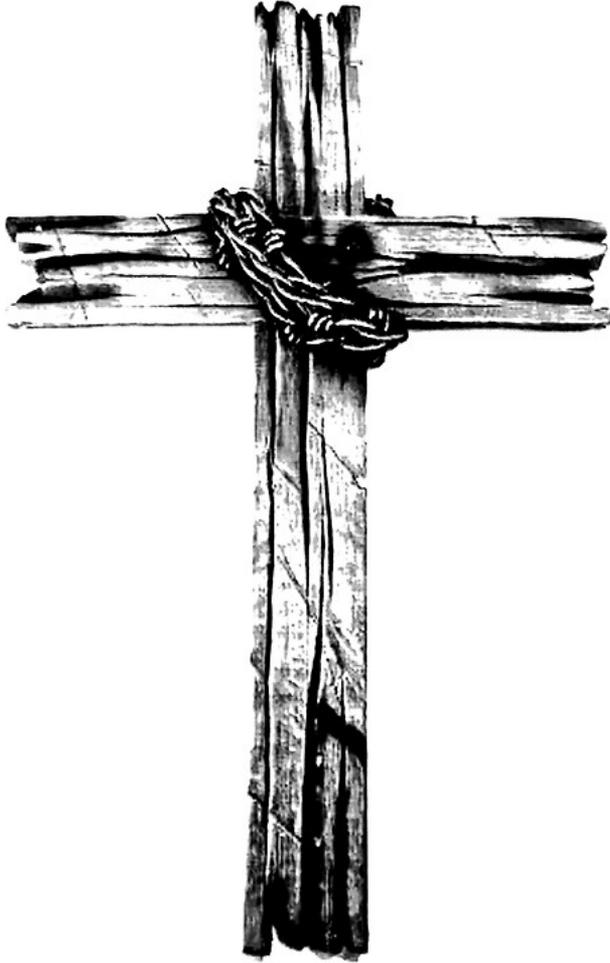


Second Sunday in Lent
5 March 2023



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Service of Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3

The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages. The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(There is a time of silence for reflection.)

P: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.

C: Amen.

Hymn #445 “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

Greeting (page 138)

P: 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.

♩ **Kyrie** (pages 138-139)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. *concluding:* **C: Amen**

Readings

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

Gospel Acclamation (page 142)

♩ **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

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Sermon – Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Sermon – Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Hymn #323 “God Loved the World”

Confession of Faith: Apostles’ Creed (page 105)

P: 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, 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

P: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all creation.

(Each petition ends: P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.)

P: 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.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Holy God, gracious and merciful...our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

♫ **Great Thanksgiving** (page 144)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

♫ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven 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

Lord's Prayer (page 145)

**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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**♫ 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.**

Hymn #324 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn (Hymn #811)

**♫ On my heart imprint your image,
blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life’s troubles nor its pleasures
ever may your work erase.**

Let the clear inscription be:

**Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope’s foundation,
all my glory and salvation!**

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Hymn #796 “How Firm a Foundation”

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the Bell / Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Organist: Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: Ryan Olson

Lector: Jason Boussetot

Communion Assistant: Deb Detlefs

Usher: Brian Boussetot

Cleaners: Shane and Amy Glover

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This Week At A Glance

Wednesday	10:00 am	Naomi Circle at Marsha Witte's home Midweek Lenten supper
	6:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship at Our Savior's
	7:00 pm	Savior's
	7:30 pm	Bible Jam at Our Savior's
	8:30 pm	High School Bible Study at Our Savior's
Sunday	8:00 am	Our Savior's Worship Service
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Faith
	10:30	Faith Worship Service

Those to keep in prayer: the homebound: Norman Bousselot, Carol Christensen, Shirley Ferguson, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Myrna Kay Petersen, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand, Joan Shelton; and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military, Nick Timmerman.

During Lent, Our Savior's and Faith will be gathering jars of **peanut butter** (chunky or smooth, any size, any brand) for the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

During **Pastor Holloway-Nilsen's maternity leave**, if you are willing to offer the homily or reflection on a Sunday; or bring communion to our homebound members, please let Pastor Leah know by email or a phone call before Thursday, March 16.

All members of the parish are invited to a **baby shower** for the Nilsens on Saturday, March 18, from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Faith Church fellowship hall. The Nilsens are registered at Target.

The **Noisy Offering** will be collected on Sunday, March 19th. The 2023 recipient is St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ft. Myers Beach, FL. The church sustained heavy damage during Hurricane Ian.

The youth have scheduled a **bowling** outing on Sunday, March 26th, at 12:30 pm at DeWitt Lanes. Invite a friend and bring a snack to share. Call Heather Grau at 563.424.0507 if you plan to attend.

Born Again

by William Barclay

John 3:1–6 (NRSV): Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

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?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Let us start with the kingdom of heaven. What does it mean? We get our best definition of it from the Lord's Prayer. There are two petitions side by side:

Thy Kingdom come:

Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

It is characteristic of Jewish style to say things twice, the second way explaining and amplifying the first. Any verse of the Psalms will show us this Jewish habit of what is technically known as parallelism:

The Lord of hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our refuge (Psalms 46:7).

For I know my transgressions:

And my sin is ever before me (Psalms 51:3).

He makes me lie down in green pastures:

He leads me beside still waters (Psalms 23:2).

Let us apply that principle to these two petitions in the Lord's Prayer. The second petition amplifies and explains the first; we

then arrive at the definition: the kingdom of heaven is a society where God's will is as perfectly done on earth as it is in heaven. To be in the kingdom of heaven is therefore to lead a life in which we have willingly submitted everything to the will of God; it is to have arrived at a stage when we perfectly and completely accept the will of God.

Now let us take sonship. In one sense sonship is a tremendous privilege. To those who believe there is given the power to become sons (John 1:12). But the very essence of sonship is necessarily obedience. "He who has commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves me" (John 14:21). The essence of sonship is love; and the essence of love is obedience. We cannot with any reality say that we love a person and then do things which hurt and grieve that person's heart. Sonship is a privilege, but a privilege which is entered into only when full obedience is given. So then to be a son of God and to be in the kingdom are one and the same thing. The son of God and the citizen of the kingdom are both people who have completely and willingly accepted the will of God.

Now let us take eternal life. It is far better to speak of eternal life than to speak of everlasting life. The main idea behind eternal life is not simply that of duration. It is quite clear that a life which went on for ever could just as easily be hell as heaven. The idea behind eternal life is the idea of a certain quality of life. What kind? There is only one person who can properly be described by this adjective eternal (aionios) and that one person is God. Eternal life is the kind of life that God lives; it is God's life. To enter into eternal life is to enter into possession of that kind of life which is the life of God. It is to be lifted up above merely human, transient things into that joy and peace which belong only to God. Clearly a man can enter into this close fellowship with God only when he renders to him that love, that reverence, that devotion, that obedience which truly bring him into fellowship with him.

Here then we have three great kindred conceptions, entry into the kingdom of heaven, sonship of God and eternal life; and all are

dependent on and are the products of perfect obedience to the will of God. It is just here that the idea of being reborn comes in. It is what links all these three conceptions together. It is quite clear that, as we are and in our own strength, we are quite unable to render to God this perfect obedience; it is only when God's grace enters into us and takes possession of us and changes us that we can give to him the reverence and the devotion we ought to give. It is through Jesus Christ that we are reborn; it is when he enters into possession of our hearts and lives that the change comes.

When that happens we are born of water and the Spirit. There are two thoughts there. Water is the symbol of cleansing. When Jesus takes possession of our lives, when we love him with all our heart, the sins of the past are forgiven and forgotten. The Spirit is the symbol of power. When Jesus takes possession of our lives it is not only that the past is forgotten and forgiven; if that were all, we might well proceed to make the same mess of life all over again; but into life there enters a new power which enables us to be what by ourselves we could never be and to do what by ourselves we could never do. Water and the Spirit stand for the cleansing and the strengthening power of Christ, which wipes out the past and gives victory in the future.

Finally, in this passage, John lays down a great law. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. A man by himself is flesh and his power is limited to what the flesh can do. By himself he cannot be other than defeated and frustrated; that we know only too well; it is the universal fact of human experience. But the very essence of the Spirit is power and life which are beyond human power and human life; and when the Spirit takes possession of us, the defeated life of human nature becomes the victorious life of God.

To be born again is to be changed in such a way that it can be described only as rebirth and re-creation. The change comes when we love Jesus and allow him into our hearts. Then we are forgiven for the past and armed by the Spirit for the future; then we can

truly accept the will of God. And then we become citizens of the kingdom; then we become sons of God; then we enter into eternal life, which is the very life of God.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT)

<https://bibleportal.com/commentary/section/william-barclay>

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