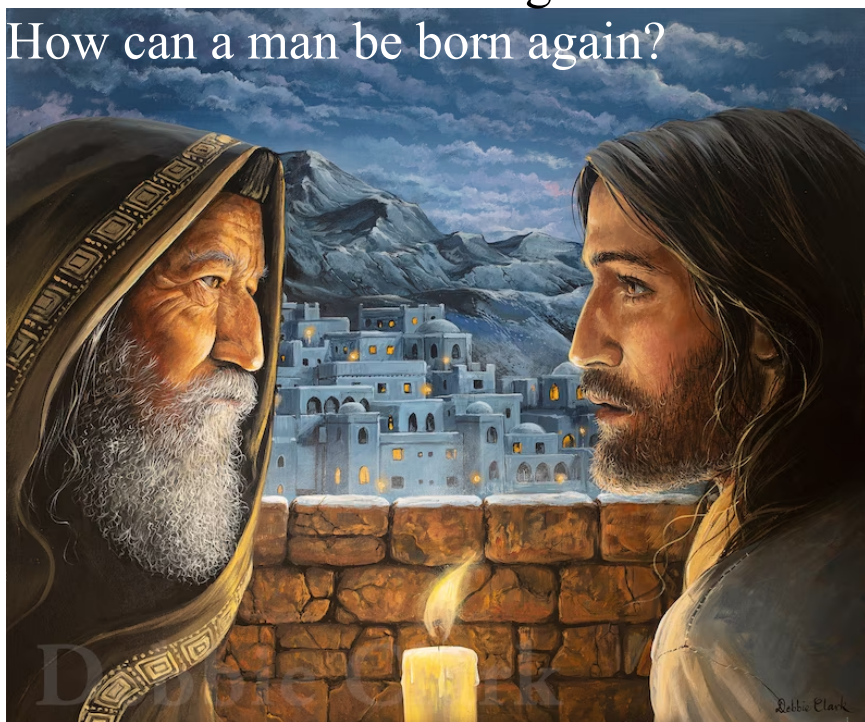


# St. Johns Lutheran Church

Unless one is born again  
He cannot see the kingdom of God  
How can a man be born again?



Unless one is born of water and the Spirit,  
He cannot enter the kingdom of God.

## **AS WE GATHER**

The pages of the Bible are filled with some very human people. In the appointed Readings of the Sundays in Lent, we encounter several. In today's Old Testament Reading, we hear of Abraham, who followed the guidance of God faithfully to the land of promise. Yet in Genesis, we also read that when in a challenging situation in Egypt, he misrepresented his wife as his sister and profited from the deception. Nicodemus, to whom Jesus explained the Gospel in great detail, kept his association with the Lord a secret. Even at the time of the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion, Nicodemus labors with Joseph of Arimathea "secretly for fear of the Jews" (John 19:38). It is well that we are reminded as we confess in the Nicene Creed that "for us men and for our salvation" our Lord "was made man." As imperfect and very human people, we are assured by the Spirit that we are loved by God, who knows us as we are, and that we truly are "precious in the sight of the LORD" in life and in death (Psalm 116:15).

## **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **WELCOME GUESTS**

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranlouis.org/>).

#### **PREPARATION**

#### **HYMN**

The God of Abraham Praise

*LSB 798 v. 1-4*

**The God of Abr'ham praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days  
And God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
By earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name  
Forever blest.**

**The God of Abr'ham praise,  
At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys  
At His right hand.  
I all on earth forsake,  
Its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,  
And Him my only portion make,  
My shield and tow'r.**

**The God of Abr'ham praise,  
Whose all-sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days  
In all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend;  
He calls Himself my God.  
And He shall save me to the end  
Through Jesus' blood.**

**He by Himself has sworn;  
I on His oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,  
To heav'n ascend.  
I shall behold His face;  
I shall His pow'r adore  
And sing the wonders of His grace  
Forevermore.**

## INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in You I trust.**

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

**Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.**

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

O God, our Father,

**we confess that by nature, we are sinful and that in our pride, we have turned away from Your commands.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have thought and said and done that is contrary to Your will and Your ways, and forgive us for all those times when we have trusted in our own righteousness instead of relying on Your grace in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have not been good stewards of Your great creation and for those times when we have been unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**Amen.**

## WORD

**INTROIT**     *Psalm 105:4–7; antiphon: v. 8*

He remembers his covenant for \* ever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener \* ations.

**Seek the Lord \* and his strength;  
seek his presence con \* tinually!**

Remember the wondrous works that \* he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he \* uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his \* servant,  
children of Jacob, his \* chosen ones!**

He is the \* Lord our God;  
his judgments are in \* all the earth.

**Glory be to the Father and \* to the Son  
and to the Holy \* Spirit;  
as it was in the be \* ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. \* Amen.**

He remembers his covenant for \* ever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener \* ations.

## SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **MEMORIZED WORD**

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me. Psalm 86:5-7

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Genesis 12:1–9*

<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>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.**

**SONG**    *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (The Other Song Book 240)*

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face.  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.**

**EPISTLE**     *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

<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 trusts 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.” . . . <sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For 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 there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** LSB 157

**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.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**      *John 3:1–17*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**



## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”**      *LSB 708*

**Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,  
With tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share,  
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.**

**Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave  
My body, soul, and all I have  
In this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place  
May glorify Thy lavish grace  
And help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile;  
And Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
To bear my cross and follow Thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
In death Thy comfort still afford.**

**Lord, let at last Thine angels come,  
To Abram's bosom bear me home,  
That I may die unfearing;  
And in its narrow chamber keep  
My body safe in peaceful sleep  
Until Thy reappearing.**

*(verse continues on next page)*

And then from death awaken me,  
That these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,  
My Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
And I will praise Thee without end.

## **SERMON**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come 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**

### **OFFERTORY**

*LSB 159*

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation  
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now  
in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

*(Church Officers, Board Chairs, and Board Members are invited to come forward)*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray

Lord, bless our learning and our worship and our questioning and our study and our witness as we grow in faith and devotion.

O Lord,

**hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

We pray for all nations of the earth, that in all places there may be times of lasting peace. We pray for people in lands where there have been upset and strife. And we pray for our own nation that it may know safety and that people may be joyful in their daily lives.

O Lord,

**hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

We pray for all those whose labor serves us as we live out our lives under Your watchful eye, especially those in the military, our police personnel, medical workers, and all those whose efforts support the common good. O Lord,

**hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

We pray for the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs, bringing to You our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes, [*including . . .*]. Assure us that the sufferings of this present life are but transitory and that Your grace endures forever.

O Lord,

**hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

Lord, inspire us by the witness of the faithful from all generations that we may complete our earthly journeys with confidence in Your gracious promises as they did in their lifetimes.

We beseech You, O Lord,

**hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

The God of Abraham Praise

*LSB 798 v. 5-9*

**Though nature's strength decay,  
And earth and hell withstand,  
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way  
At His command.**

**The wat'ry deep I pass,  
With Jesus in my view,  
And through the howling wilderness  
My way pursue.**

**The goodly land I see,  
With peace and plenty blest:  
A land of sacred liberty  
And endless rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
And oil and wine abound,  
And trees of life forever grow  
With mercy crowned.**

**There dwells the Lord our king,  
The Lord our righteousness,  
Triumphant o'er the world and sin,  
The Prince of Peace.  
On Zion's sacred height  
His kingdom He maintains  
And glorious with His saints in light  
Forever reigns.**

**The God who reigns on high  
The great archangels sing,  
And, "Holy, holy, holy!" cry,  
"Almighty King!  
Who was and is the same  
And evermore shall be;  
Jehovah, Father, great I AM!  
We worship Thee!"**

*Stand*

**The whole triumphant host  
Give thanks to God on high.  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"  
They ever cry.  
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!  
I join the heav'nly lays:  
All might and majesty are Thine  
And endless praise!**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Lector	Tristan Pilot
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney

Acolytes/Screen  
Bible Class

Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy  
Pastor Michael Tanney

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## Announcements

### Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week  
Attendance Sunday/Communion: 50/43  
Lent Attendance: 22  
Offering: \$1,804.00

**A TELL THE NEXT GENERATION CONFERENCE:** The Christ Centered Home Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.-3 p.m at Lutheran High School St. Charles. Registration deadline extended to: March 5<sup>th</sup>. Cost (covers lunch): \$15

From God's Word and confirmed by recent studies, we know that parents are the most important faith teachers of their children. Parents, lay people, and church workers are invited to this conference which focuses on supporting families as they create and live in Christ-centered homes. Dr. Randy Schroeder and Dr. Mart Thompson are keynotes, and there are over a dozen breakout presentations.

For more info and to register: <https://mo.lcms.org/ttng-conference-2023/>

**SHINE!** April 14-23 across the Missouri District. Registration deadline for groups wanting shirts, which are free: March 14<sup>th</sup>. Cost: Free! As in no payment to the District is needed.

Congregations and schools are invited to plan a servant event in their community anytime between April 14-23 for the third year of the initiative. For more info and to register: <https://mo.lcms.org/shine/>

**LENT MIDWEEK 2 (3/8/23)** Join us for our Amazing Grace Lenten series based on the beloved song that celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. In this week's service, we hear Jesus tell of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father's lavish compassion toward us through his Son Jesus. We were lost but now are found. The service will be at 6pm with a soup supper at 5:15pm.

**LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK** Baseball fever is in the air, and it's time to get your tickets to Lutheran Day at the Ballpark!

Join us for an interleague matchup between the Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers on Sunday, May 7 at 1:15 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each in the left field pavilion and include a jumbo hot dog and soda. They can be picked up at Lutheran South beginning May 1. Stick around to watch the Lutheran South Lancers battle the Lutheran North Crusaders following the Cardinal game. Tickets are available for purchase at [LSlancers.org/events](http://LSlancers.org/events)

**SUBSTITUTE LUNCH COOK** WOL has an in-house lunch program. We are looking for someone with cooking experience who would be willing to be a substitute cook on Mondays and Wednesdays should our daily cook be out sick. Please contact the school office at 314-832-1244 if you might have an interest and ability in helping WOL in this way.

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER NEEDED** WOL is seeking a long term substitute teacher for Mrs. Pierce while she is on maternity leave. She teaches in the Preschool 3/4 classroom at the St. Lucas campus. We are expecting coverage to be needed at the end of March through the end of the school year. Qualified applicants can contact Principal, Melissa Bergholt at 314-832-1244 or [mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net](mailto:mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net).

**PRODIGAL'S JOURNEY BY BALLET MAGNIFICAT!** Will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7pm. CMP will host The Grace Center of Festus' presentation of *Prodigal's Journey* by Ballet Magnificat! Tickets are available online only. See [CMPShows.org](http://CMPShows.org) for details. Ballet Magnificat! Is an arts organization dedicated to presenting the good news of Jesus Christ through ballet. If you have any additional questions or require assistance with ticketing, please call 314-278-5664 or email [makayleemiller8@gmail.com](mailto:makayleemiller8@gmail.com)

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** – **Carmen Hobson** who is enduring pain, stability, and weakness with no surgery in sight; **Bobbie** who is suffering with mental issues; **Jerry Schmaltz** gives thanks for his good health; **Confirmation Class** for the Lord to help them finish what they have begun; **Our Vicars** as they continue to take classes at the Seminary; **Our Field-Workers** Tristan (and family), Alvaro, and Isaac (as he begins his mission track);

**Shut Ins** – Bobbie Kepford, Jerry Schmaltz, Steve Bain, Carmen Hobson

### *Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week*

**March 5 – March 12**

Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>6pm</u> Ladies Exercise 7pm Elders
Tuesday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass 7pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>3:45pm</u> Compass Chapel <b>5:15pm Soup Supper / 6pm Lent Service</b>
Thursday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>2pm</u> Ridgewood Bible Study <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>6:30pm</u> Adult Confirmation
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open 8am Bible Study 1pm Nepali Mother's Prayer Service <u>2pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>6pm-7:30pm</u> Faith Oakville Small Group
Saturday	<u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry / <u>9am</u> Confirmation 2pm Vicar Meeting
Next Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm African Worship