



SECOND
Sunday
OF
LENT

March 4, 5, and 6, 2023



**When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought joy to my soul.**

Psalm 94:19

Worship Information

Welcome to worship at Living Hope Lutheran Church.

If your child becomes restless while sitting with you during the service, we have a room to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need assistance.



WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

TODAY'S WORSHIP FOCUS

Today we hear Jesus speak of universal condemnation: "No one can enter the kingdom of God." At the same time, God promised to bless "all people" through Abram's family. How is this resolved? Jesus Christ solves our greatest need by winning salvation for everyone. This gift is offered to "whoever" believes! Therefore, this gift is yours! Today we grow in the certainty of God's love so that we can live in a world of many troubles and dangers with the confidence that God will never leave us.



OPENING HYMN

612 vs.1-3 | *How Great Thou Art*

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection



The Invocation is based on the words used in Baptism. These words began or strengthened our relationship with Jesus, and serve as a reminder that our worship is based on his grace to us.

The first responses are from Psalm 32:1-2.



These words confess the reality of our sin and our sinfulness. They also confess the hope we have through faith in Jesus.

Jesus authorized us to speak these words of forgiveness on his behalf. Hear them as Jesus speaking to you!



This is not a prayer for forgiveness. This is a prayer for God's mercy to be with us and bless us in various aspects of life. In particular, notice the focus on spiritual blessings.

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY –Kyrie

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: 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.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

612 v. 4 | *How Great Thou Art*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you..

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 12: 1-8

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.



The Lord promised Abram that one of his descendants would be a gift for the world. The Lord also gave Abram the gift of faith to believe that promise.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN RESPONSE

638 vs. 1-3 | *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:1-5; 13-17



Abraham provides an example of how salvation is not earned but received as a gift through faith.

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN RESPONSE

638 vs. 4-6 | *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You

The custom of standing for the Gospel Lesson is a sign of respect for Jesus' words and works.



By sharing the gospel of God's love for the world, Jesus gave the gift of faith to a Pharisee named Nicodemus.



should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

570 | *God Loved the World so that He Gave*

SERMON

Genesis 12:1-8

God's Grace to Abram

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty.**

**From there 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.**

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER

Spoken by the Minister



This Creed is a summary of the Biblical truths of what the Triune God has done for us. Speak the words with confidence because based on what God has done for you, you are blessed and saved!



Our gracious God invites us pray and promises to hear us. Here we pray for a variety of people and institutions that God's uses to bless us. We hold to the promises of 1 Timothy 2:1–3 in this prayer: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior."

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

C: **Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

M: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

C: **Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

M: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

C: **Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

M: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

C: **Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

M: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

C: **Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

M: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

C: **Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Special prayers may be spoken here

M: Here us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

M: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

HYMN

611 | *Joyously I'll Praise My Savior*

PLEASE STAND

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



This hymn was written by Paul Gerhardt, one of the great Lutheran hymn writers. The tune for this hymn in our old hymnal was very difficult. Here it is set to a much better known melody so that we can joyfully sing God's praises!

Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer when they asked him to teach them to pray. To review the content of this prayer, Luther's Small Catechism is printed in our hymnal. The section on the Lord's Prayer begins on p. 289.

The Blessing is the Word of God—given by God for the Old Testament priests. The same God promises to bless you!

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

BLESSING

M: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

842 | *Jesus, Still Lead On*



Please place your offering in the box in the back of church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture Lessons taken from Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

SERVING THIS WEEKEND

Preacher	Pastor Mark Aufdemberge
Worship Accompanist	Debra Aufdemberge (Sat.) Dee Ann Techlin (Sun.)
Saturday Ushers	Terry Meincke, Tom Harders, Craig Radue, Ron Krenz
8:00am Ushers	Joe Lucchesi, Jaccob Diaz Griffin, Corey Tulledge, Bill Hansen
10:30am Ushers	Tony Saez, Sr., Joe Saez, Andy Hein, Fred Klinger, Justin Dorris, David Hofer

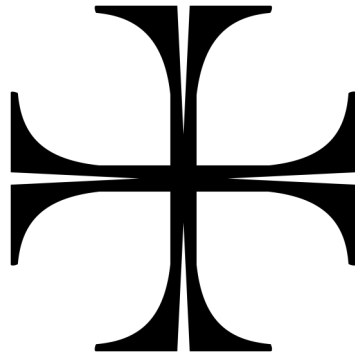


In a sermon on John 3:16-21, Martin Luther said:

Indeed, you say, I should gladly believe if I were as St. Peter, St. Paul, and others who are pious and holy; but I am entirely too great a sinner. Moreover, who knows whether I am elected to salvation? Answer: Look at the words, I beseech you, to determine how and of whom he is speaking. "God so loved the world," and "whoever believes in him." Now, the "world" does not mean St. Peter and St. Paul alone but the entire human race, all together. And no one is here excluded. God's Son was given for *all*. *All* should believe, and *all* who do believe should not perish. Take hold of your nose, I beseech you, to determine whether you are not a human being (that is, part of the world) and, like any other person, belong to the number of those comprised by the word "all." If you and I did not have to apply these words to ourselves, they must have been spoken falsely and in vain.

Surely, these things were not preached, much less given and granted, to cows or geese. Therefore beware that you do not exclude yourself and give place to thoughts such as: "Who knows whether it is given to me?" For this would be charging God with a lie in his Word. Rather make the sign of the cross against the notion and, in accordance with these words, speak as follows: *Although I am not St. Peter or St. Paul, I am after all, part of the world. If he had intended to give salvation only to the worthy, then he would have been obliged to have it preached only to the angels; they are pure and without sin. . . . But no matter what I am like, I know that God's Word is true; and if I did not accept it, I would be adding to all my other sins this sin that I consider God's Word and truth lies and blaspheme them.*

What Luther Says, pages 608-609



LIVING HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Woodlawn Campus
2217 S. 99th Street
West Allis, Wisconsin 53227
www.GoodShepherds.net

Mark Aufdemberge, Pastor (Jor) magld88@yahoo.com 414-321-2126
Ben Wessel, Pastor (WL) bwessel@woodlawnlutheran.org 414-321-2126
Tom Kneser, Pastor (WL) pastor.kneser@woodlawnlutheran.org 414-321-2126
Timothy Wempner, Pastor (GS) twempner@goodshepherds.net 414-774-1184
Joshua Zarling, Pastor (GS) jzarling@goodshepherds.net 414-774-1184
Tim MacKain, Principal (LoG) mackain@logls.org 414-321-8780
Michael Henning, Principal (GS) mhenning@goodshepherds.net 414-774-1184
Sarah Barth, Church Secretary (GS) church@goodhsepherds.net 414-774-1184
Mary Gasper, Church Secretary (W) MGasper@logls.org 414-321-8780
Shelly Nardi, Early Childcare (GS) childcare@goodshepherds.net 414-774-1184
Mark Kuether, Cong. Pres. (LH) markk@askpublishing.com 262-227-7850