

Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

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. 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. I 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.”

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 121 (*read responsively*)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
**The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
**The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For 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. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 unless God is with that person.” 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. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The 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.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 1 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“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.

“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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULED EVENTS	
M 3/2	12:30 pm Mahjong
T 3/3	9:00 am Communications Meeting 1:00 pm Lake Forest Worship 3:30 pm Parables of Jesus Christ Bible Study
W 3/4	11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm Lenten Worship - Soup Supper
H 3/5	9:30 am World Religions Discussion
F 3/6	
S 3/7	4:30 pm Hospitality 5:00 pm Worship
S 3/8	LOVE LUNCHESES 8:30 am Hospitality 9:00 am Worship 1:00 pm Golf Scramble

- **Keep e-blast submissions brief & submit by 10 am on Wednesday**
- **World Religions Discussion each Thursday, 9:30 am-11 am**
- **Parables of Jesus Bible Study, Tuesday, 3:30 pm**

Our prayer list is e-mailed to members every Wednesday. If you need a printed copy of this list, please contact the office.

Attendance last week: 19 Saturday 37 Sunday

Hymns: 714, 660, 1067