

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW - Byron, MN

Sunday, March 17, 2019: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Kim Jacobson

INTRODUCTION

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Faith of Our Fathers* (ELW 812)

GREETING

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

KYRIE (ELW p. 138)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So

shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message – “Seek my face.”

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away – you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

¹³This I believe – that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD and be strong.

Take heart and wait for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17–4:1

A reading from Philippians.

Although Paul’s devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *By the Babylonian Rivers* (WOV 656)

CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition of the prayer will end: Hear us, O God,
Please respond with: **Your Mercy is great.** [At ending: **Amen.**]

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with
words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we
receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)

PREFACE (ELW p. 144)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Master, Let Me Walk with You (ELW 818)

O Savior, Precious Savior (ELW 820)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Lead On, O King Eternal!* (ELW 805)

DISMISSAL



WELCOME TO THOSE VISITING

If you're visiting, we're glad you chose to worship with us. Please sign our guestbook in the narthex. Times for services rotate monthly between East & West churches.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

March: Marilyn Carlson & Audrey Carlson

Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from the pastor or another member, please contact an East deacon:

Rhonda Leighty: 365-8047, Sonya Mansfield: 365-8663 or
Glenda Mueller: 696-5753.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Earth Village: In support of the wonderful ministry of GEV, our synod's church camp and retreat center, and their impact on the lives of our young people, we will be taking a special offering on March 31. Please remember their good work that day.

East St. Olaf Church is now accepting bids for lawn care of the church grounds. *This does not include the parsonage or cemeteries.* The job includes cleaning grounds of sticks and debris, mowing, trimming around all objects and removal of clippings from sidewalks. Bids must be sent through the mail and postmarked no later than March 30, 2019. Call Chris Yennie at 365-8047 with questions.

Mail bids to: East St. Olaf Church
ATTN: Trustees - Lawn Care
6200 County Road 3 SW
Byron, MN 55920

Sealed bids are now being accepted for the East-West St. Olaf Parsonage farm (12.9 acres). This would be for a 3-year contract.

Requirements for placing a bid:

A sealed bid must be sent through the mail so each letter is postmarked. Bids are due by Friday, April 5, 2019.

Mail bids to: East St. Olaf Church
ATTN: Farm Bid
6200 County Road 3 SW
Byron, MN 55920

Deadline for Thrivent Choice Dollars to be allocated is March 31.

Offering

02/17/19 and 03/03/19 combined: \$3,456 Current, \$80 SG
Window, \$270 GEV.

03/06/19: \$45 Current \$280 Benevolence.