

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

The First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

Psalm

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The 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 without works 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. 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 violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he 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 Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

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. 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?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a 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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

2nd: Laura Brown
 3rd: Marie Tucker
 13th: Susan Kuhlman
 14th: Allyssa Morse
 15th: Stan Williams
 24th: Norman White
 27th: Lorraine Litterski

This Week at SMAA

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 11:30 am Inquirer's Class

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, March 12, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 11:30 am Inquirer's Class

Easter Hydrangeas

If you would like to purchase Hydrangeas for Easter Sunday, **April 9, 2023**, please pick up and fill out the form in the entry way of the church. Place your check noted "**Easter Hydrangeas**" and the form in the offering plate. Please print legibly. Suggested Donation: **Hydrangeas \$25.00**. Deadline to purchase Hydrangeas will be **Sunday, April 2nd**

Next Sunday's Servers (03/12)

Acolytes: Norah Lindsey
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Bryan White
Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Lynn Dawes
Greeter: Susan Kuhlman
Lector: Susan Schug
Nursery Helper: Carolyn Deakins
Ushers: Michael Greathouse
Vestry People: Bryan White, Connie Fedrizzi
Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Amy Brown
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Diane Buffington
Eucharistic Ministers: Becky Supercinski
Greeter: Roxanne Brink
Lector: Helen Daniel
Nursery Helper: Ruby Hahne
Ushers: Bryan White
Vestry People: Susan Kuhlman, Susan Schug
Worship Tech: Laura Buckner

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Travel Protection for:

- Joe Frank Brown & Michael Greathouse

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering. Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/ BELOW
02/05/23	\$631	\$2,939	-\$2,308
02/12/23	\$5,942	\$2,939	\$3,003
02/19/23	\$7,694	\$2,939	\$4,755
02/26/23	\$2,030	\$2,939	-\$909
YTD TOTALS	\$32,375	\$26,450	\$5,925

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