

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 2023

### *A Gift For The World*

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Opening Hymn .....570, “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

Order of Service.....Setting One, Page 154

**Prayer of the Day:** 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.

#### FIRST READING

**Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)**..... Psalm 121D

#### SECOND READING

**Gospel Acclamation** ..... Page 161

**Gospel Acclamation Verse:** *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. (SUNG! – See Pg. 161 – Bottom of Page - for melody.)*

#### GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day .....612, “How Great Thou Art”

**SERMON**..... “A Promise that Is More than a Promise” Genesis 12:1-8

Offering Hymn ..... 748 v. 1, “Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

Nicene Creed .....Pages 162-163

Communion Liturgy ..... Page 165

Communion Hymn.....659, “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

Closing Liturgy ..... Page 170

**Closing Hymn** .....573 vv. 1 & 2, “Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness”

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### FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-8

**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.**

*Now the LORD said to Abram, “Get out of your country and away from your relatives and from your father’s house and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you. All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you.”*

*So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother’s son, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to travel to the land of Canaan. Eventually they arrived in the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land until he- came to the Oak of Moreh at the place called Shechem. The Canaanites were in*

*the land at that time. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and proclaimed the name of the LORD.*

### SECOND READING: 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 will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. For what does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

*Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness. Indeed, the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not given to Abraham or his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness that is by faith. To be sure, if people are heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. For law brings wrath. (Where there is no law, there is no transgression.) For this reason, the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham’s descendants—not only to the one who is a descendant by law, but also to the one who has the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”*

### GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

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

*There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.” Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus. “You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven. “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten 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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION:** Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

**HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK:** Dean Ebert/Rob Stern; next week: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart.

**THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES:** Our Lenten services will be held on **Wednesday, March 8**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Jeffery Drake of Trinity, Hartford. Please join us!

**LWMS FREE-WILL OFFERING:** On **Wednesday, March 8**, and **Sunday, March 12**, we will be taking a free-will offering to help support the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks should be made payable to: **LWMS**. We hope many of you will consider supporting the missionary efforts of LWMS!

**PIZZA SALE:** The PTL is currently holding a pizza/cheese bread/snack sticks sale to raise improvement funds for our school. If you are interested in purchasing some of these items, please look for the order forms on the table at the back of church or speak to any of our school families. Orders **and money** are due by **Friday, March 10**. Orders may be turned in to the school office. Checks should be made payable to: **St. Matthew's PTL**.

We are also looking for volunteers to help make the pizzas. This will be done on **Friday, March 24**, from **3:15 PM – 9:00 PM** -and- **Saturday, March 25**, from **7:30 AM – until done**. If you would be willing to help, please sign up on the sheets posted on the school bulletin board in the school hallway. Any questions about this sale may be directed to **Brian Youngbeck (920) 296-1128**. Thanks, in advance, to everyone who helps with or supports this sale!

**LUTHER PREP – SACRED SPRING CONCERT:** Luther Preparatory School in Watertown will present their Sacred Spring Concert on **Sunday (TODAY), March 5**, at **2:00 PM**. The concert will be held in the Luther Prep gym. All are welcome!

**WE THANK** the adult choir for their lovely song today!

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Ash Wednesday: 26; Sunday: 109

**Offerings:** Ash Wednesday: \$670.00; Sunday: \$4,265.33

*(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,889.00)*

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$100.00; Church Refurbishment: \$25.00

**Memorials:** In Memory of Darlene Schellpfeffer: \$25.00 *(Church Refurbishment)*

## OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Communion Worship Service .....9:00 AM
	Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM
Tuesday:	School Board Meeting .....6:00 PM
Wednesday:	Lenten Worship Services.....3:15 PM/7:00 PM
	<b>Church Council.....8:00 PM</b>
Thursday:	Adult Choir.....8:00 PM
Sunday:	Worship Service .....9:00 AM
	Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM

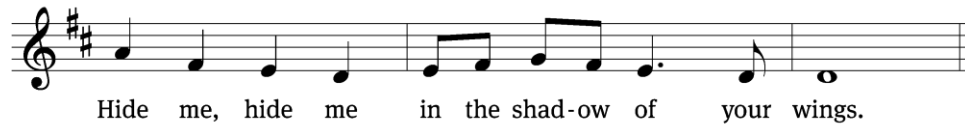
***DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!!***

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# 121D Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye

Psalm 121D

## Refrain



## Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—  
where does my help / come from?  
My help comes / from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- / en and earth.  
He will not let your / foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not / slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over / Israel  
will neither slum- / ber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—  
the LORD is your shade at / your right hand;  
the sun will not harm / you by day,  
nor the / moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—  
he will watch o- / ver your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going  
both now and for- / evermore.  
**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. *Refrain***