

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

February 28, 2021: Second Sunday in Lent

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
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.
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O Zion, Haste* (ELW 668)

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and

moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans.

¹³The 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For 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, ¹⁷as 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. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* (LBW 389)

*Stand up, Stand up for Jesus, as soldiers of the cross
Lift high his royal banner: It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army he shall lead,
Till every foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.*

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING SONG *Abide with Me* (ELW 629)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING!

If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook in the narthex.
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

OFFERING: You may leave your offering into the offering plate/basket as you leave (*no offering plates are passed, due to Covid*).

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

EAST - 9:00 am early (*except 3/21 late service*)

WEST-11:00 am late (*except 3/21 early service*)

WEATHER-RELATED CANCELATIONS



To verify if there is a cancelation for a church service or church activity, **please check:** **KTTC TV (channel 10), or online at www.kttc.com** and click on the tab for **WEATHER** - then click on *Closings and Delays* or check parsonage answering machine 365-8222. Decisions made by council presidents/pastor.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

EAST Note: Anyone interested may join **Altar Guild**

Altar Guild: February -Toni & Iris Koehler

Deacon: February - Glenda Mueller

East Reader: Reader: Pastor reading scriptures

East Acolytes: Ushers will cover this duty

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS



East & West St. Olaf are Reopened:

Please wear a mask, sanitize hands upon arrival and leaving, and remain socially distant from other family groups. Also, no coffee hours are permitted at either church due to Covid restrictions

- Worship service times February: West 9:00am / East 11:00 am.
- Confirmation classes have resumed: Confirmation class meets at EAST church at 7:00 pm for the month of March
- Church councils have resumed monthly meetings.
- JOINT Council meeting will be MARCH 8 at West church (6:00 pm separate mtgs. / 7:00 pm Joint mtg.)

"Holy First Communion" is NEXT SUNDAY

BOTH churches will have 1st Holy Communion service next Sun., March 7. Anyone is welcome to attend this service as we feel we will still be able to socially distance for safety.

NOTE ABOUT ANNUAL MEETING:

EAST will not have an annual meeting – there will be a special meeting this spring to vote on constitutional updates.

Lilies to Beautify Our Altar ~ Easter Will be Here Soon!



If anyone wishes to donate/share their Easter lily/lilies at church “*in-memory of*” and/or “*in-honor of*” someone... please let Gina Moser know, (or at West: Sheryl Wohlers) by March 24, if you would like them listed in the Easter bulletin. **Please drop-off lilies at your church the day before Easter.**

Donations for Fire Victims of Mantorville Apartments

The Kasson-Mantorville Ministerial Association encourages all local churches to collect a “special offering” for the victims of the recent apartment building fire in Mantorville. Please make your check out to SEMCAC (Kasson) and notate “Mantorville fire victims” on the memo line.

UPDATES: Hayfield Community Food Pantry

1.) A T-shirt fundraiser is being held for the food pantry. All proceeds will go toward purchasing food for the pantry. There are order forms on the table in the entryway at West and on the library table in the narthex at East.

Good Earth Village Annual Meeting - March 2 ONLINE

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 pm. Zoom link and handouts will be posted at www.goodearthvillage.org If interested in attending this online meeting please talk to Pastor Paul.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

02/28	9:00 am	WEST worship/communion
	11:00 am	EAST worship
Mon.	9:00-Noon	Pastor Paul at office
	7:00 pm	BOTH: Confirmation class at EAST
Thur.	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
Fri.	-----	Pastor Paul’s day off-work

03/07 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT BOTH CHURCHES

9:00 am	EAST worship/1 st Holy Communion
11:00 am	WEST worship/1 st Holy Communion

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Mar. 8 (Mon.): JOINT COUNCIL MEETING at WEST

6:00 pm	Separate council meetings
7:00 pm	Joint meeting begins

Mar. 9 (Tue.): 9:00 am West quilting / bring own lunch or coffee

Mar. 10 (Wed.):

9:00 am	West quilting / bring own lunch or coffee
1:00 pm	West WELCA meeting- <i>No coffee after</i> (mask) Gloria Brown leading “ <i>The Woman at the Well</i> ”
7:00 pm	BOTH-Confirmation at EAST church

East Prayers: Darlene Myhre, Jim Olson (*of Rochester area*), Rita Distad, Peggy Andreason, Bill Fritts, Dianne Kearns, Steve Wilson, Maryann Schultz, Royce (*Jenny Schwanke’s son*), Ashley (Pyfferoen) Hunzeker, Sylvia Torstenson, Dawn Otteson (*friend of Distad’s*), Emily Nagel (*girlfriend of Schultz’s grandson*), Viola Olson, Steve Jensen, Julie Andreason, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), Dale Boelter, David Distad, Sally Iverson, Carol Severson, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Cell Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am–Noon... OR by appointment (*Day off-work is Friday*)

SECRETARY Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

OUR JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

East St. Olaf: President: Brian Mueller 252-8078

Gary Kearns - Home: 206-3158, Cell: 254-5285

Bryan DeCook - Cell: 208-1590