



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. And 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."
Genesis 12:1-2

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A Member of
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2026 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION

LIVING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His work in our lives, shown by how we serve Christ by serving others. Because of the salvation Jesus bought for us, we are now free. But what SHOULD we do? Paul says he (and we) are "slaves" ("servants") to Christ.

By being servants and in gratitude to Jesus for His saving work, we are empowered by the Spirit working in and through us to do what He wants. We praise Him with lives well lived, and bring the message of salvation to everyone around us, bringing Him glory by our actions.

Throughout the year, we will explore the meaning of all nine fruit. Watch for these explorations on the announcement page. We hope you will revisit your understanding of God's gifts, seeing where the Holy Spirit's fruit shine through. You are a work in progress, a work of art that God has not yet finished.

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk to Pastor John today.

2nd Sunday in Lent ~ March 1, 2026

As We Gather

"Born again" today has become a catch phrase. It's not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. This new birth happens not from human will or desire but solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit. Baptismal water is the womb through which we are born again and born from above to the life that death cannot overcome and is eternal. As we make our way through Lent, we are constantly reminded of the truth of Luther's explanation: we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. The Spirit calls us to the font, gathers the baptized around His Word and Table, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord. Thanks be to God!

WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Opening Hymn LSB 555 (vs 1-5) Salvation Unto Us Has Come

Invocation and Opening Sentences Psalm 121:1-2, 8

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

P: From where does my help come?

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

P: The LORD will preserve your going out and your coming in,

C: from this time forth and forevermore.

Confession and Absolution

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and

iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 121

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

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

C: Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

P: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

P: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN

Prayer of the Day

P: *We pray.* O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

First Lesson

Genesis 12:1-9

(God's call to Abraham and His promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation.)

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. And 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 him who dishonours 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. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Epistle Reading

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

(Abraham and his heirs are declared righteous by grace through faith.)

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come 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 there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 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.

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

(Except a man be born anew, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born

when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, 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 the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: These are the Words of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession of Faith

(Tune: Hymn # 802)

*In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.*

*In Jesus, the Saviour, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross he endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin,
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.*

*God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the church now he does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. AMEN*

Hymn of the Day LSB 418 O Lord Throughout These 40 Days

Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!*

Prayers of the Church

P: We come before the throne of God's grace in the name of Jesus and asking on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we ask for conviction, that with Abraham, we would trust in You for all things and that this faith would be counted unto us as righteousness, Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we ask that in our Baptisms from above the Spirit would enable us to show the fruit of this new life in our words and works all the days of our lives, Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, we ask that You would work so that good governments and good leaders who lead and guide our world, doing what is good and right and honourable, pursuing peace in our land and across the world, Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, work in us the courage to proclaim the Good News of our Lord's death and resurrection. Open ears, eyes, hearts, and minds they many would believe in Jesus whom the Father has sent, Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, be with every pastor and church worker that they would faithfully fulfill their vocations and be a part of raising up many who will follow the Lord in service, Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we lit up to Your merciful and gracious care the widow and the fatherless, the single and the married, the sick and those who suffer, the grieving and the dying. We especially name before You... and all in our hearts, that in their need they would know the comfort of Your presence, the confidence in Your mercy, and the joy of knowing that You are working as You know is right and best, Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, be with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. Thank you for the past, and we look forward to the future. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Benediction

P: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn LSB 555 (vs 6-10) Salvation Unto Us Has Come

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA Organist: Bill Irwin
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION Organist: Joanne Maguire
Altar Guild: P. Restemayer / M. Nicholson
Elders: Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter,
Jeff Miller, Randy Bowers
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789