#### IOGD

in omnibus glorificetur Deus that in all things God may be glorified Romans 15:5-6 1 Peter 4:7-11

# Giving Thanks to God Through Worship!

**Welcome!** We hope that your time in worship will encourage and strengthen your relationship with God. We share the greatest hope through the One who loves you most – Jesus Christ! We invite all worshipers today to fill out the Fellowship Pew Pad during the offering portion of worship. You are also invited to make a prayer request on the green card, which is in the pew rack and then place the card in the offering plate or hand them to an usher. We pray God's blessings upon you and invite you to worship with us every Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday morning at 9:00 am.

#### AS WE GATHER WE PRAY

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The paraments are purple. It is a somber color in keeping with the penitential nature of the Lenten Season yet it is also the color of royalty, reminding us that Jesus Christ, who struggled so hard to win our salvation, is none other than our heavenly King.

# THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (March 8 – March 14)

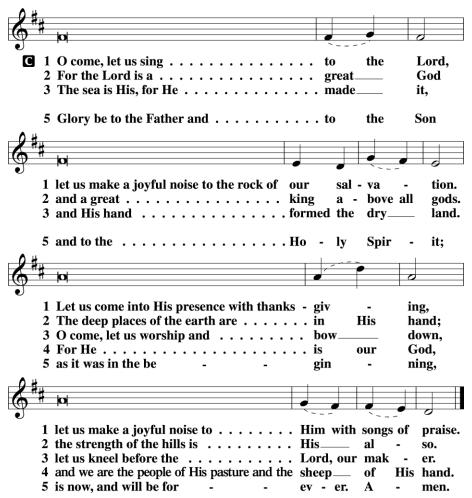
**Psalm 121:2:** My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (CSB)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME and ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP



#### VENITE



Sit.

#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS



+ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE +

#### **OLD TESTAMENT: GENESIS 12:1-4a**

#### The LORD said to Abram:

Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you. <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. (CSB)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People:** Thanks be to God. (Responses are spoken)

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

## NEW TESTAMENT: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? <sup>2</sup> If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. <sup>3</sup> For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

<sup>4</sup> When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. <sup>5</sup> But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

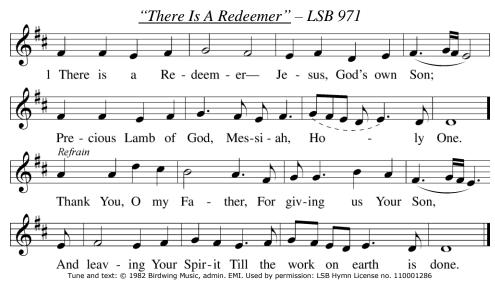
Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. <sup>15</sup> For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

<sup>16</sup> So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. <sup>17</sup> That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. (*NLT*)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand



## THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him."

- <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- <sup>4</sup> "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"
- <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."
- <sup>9</sup> "How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.
- <sup>10</sup> "Are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things?" Jesus replied. <sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven —the Son of Man.
- <sup>14</sup> "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (CSB)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

## APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

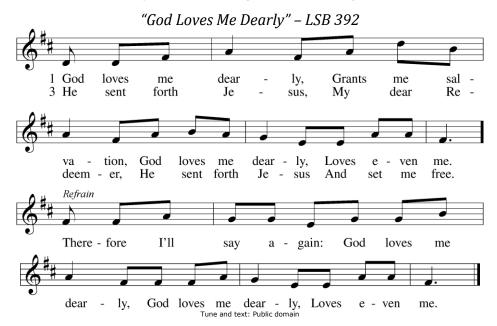
Sit

**HYMN** <u>"Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"</u> – (Stand on verse 3)

#### THE SERMON

**Psalm 121:2:** "My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." (CSB)

After the sermon please rise to sing:



### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, hear the prayers and petitions of Your people. We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy (Daniel 9:18).

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence as we trust the Holy Spirit to intercede for us "with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26).

Sit

#### SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS: THE OFFERING

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart; in all your ways acknowledge Him.*–Proverbs 3:5, 6

Because we value your presence in worship and desire to serve you as best as we can, please use this time to complete the Fellowship Pew Pad and pass it to your neighbor. Prayer requests may be made by filling out the green card in the pew rack in front of you and placing it in the offering plate.

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Please rise for prayer

Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

#### 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.

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty 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.

People: Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR GRACE

ALL: Almighty God, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit You pour the gifts

of love into the hearts of Your faithful people. Grant us, Your servants health both of mind and body that we may love You with our whole heart and with our whole strength perform those things that are pleasing to You as we await the return of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His

name we pray. Amen.

#### THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace. [Numbers 6:24-26]

People: Amen.

# CLOSING SONG "Lead Me, Guide Me" – LSB 721



# **POSTLUDE**