

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Kevin Hampton , Organist

Processional.....#686 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Beginning on BCP p. 76

All stand as the Presider greets the people with these words.

Presider: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the
brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my
salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah*
49:6b

From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall
be great among the nations, and in every place
incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure
offering; for my Name shall be great among the
nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1:11*

The Confession And Absolution *BCP p. 79*

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we
may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the
glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our
sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep
us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter *BCP p. 80*

All stand.

Presider: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Song of Praise.....#S35

The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us
adore him.

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.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the hymn.

Sequence Hymn.....#343 Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

Third 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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Tyler Helm

The Apostles Creed

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Presider and People together, all standing

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

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V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
 R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
 R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;
 R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
 R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
 R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

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Presider: O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

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Presider: Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for Mission

BCP p. 100

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

Offertory Hymn.....#691 My Faith Looks Up To Thee

The General Thanksgiving

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All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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Presider: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#690 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Dismissal

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The Presider may then conclude with one of the following

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Presider: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Romans 15:13

Presider: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude.....Kevin Hampton , Organist

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Preacher</i>	Tyler Helm
<i>Reader</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Greeter</i>	Judi Naeter
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Barbara Giddens
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	James Boyer
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Organist</i>	Kevin Hampton

Notes on the Service

Second Sunday in Lent

Gen 12:1-4a • Ps 121 • Rom 4:1-5,13-17 • Jn 3:1-17

Last Sunday's collect prayed for those who face temptations; today's collect prays for those who have succumbed to temptations and strayed.

Lent's readings tell of crucial events in the history of humanity's salvation. The story opens with Abraham (also known as Abram, his earlier name) who is the archetype of the believer. He and Sarai are the first "chosen people," later to become Jews, whereas all the characters earlier in Genesis are simply human beings. The Abraham clan is thought to have lived in what is now Iraq, whence they migrated to what is now Israel, a land they believed God intended them to own. Abram took the Lord's word for it that he and Sarai were to become a blessing to all the nations of the world. Jews, Christians, and Moslems regard Abram as their founder in faith, so well over half the world is being blessed through them.

Psalm 121 assures travelers that, like Abraham's party, they will be watched by the One who never sleeps. Jerusalem-bound pilgrims sang this "Song of Ascents." The answer to verse one's question, "...from where is my help to come?", "My help comes from the LORD," implicitly disavows the gods worshiped on hills of ancient Canaan, springs, cairns, and trees, including perhaps the Oak of Moreh where Abraham had first camped, gods who were displaced by the God of Abraham.

To Paul, the essential thing about Abraham was his trust in God. That faith was exhibited before circumcision was instituted and before the Torah was promulgated, so faith, not those other components of Judaism, and not physical descent from Abraham and Sarah, was primary in one's relationship with God. So faithful Gentiles can be saved. Paul cites Genesis about the priority of faith. By "works" he means Torah-keeping.

To another prominent Pharisee, Jesus makes a point similar to Paul's about the necessity of faith. "Born again" in John's Gospel means being given faith or getting the point or receiving the Spirit, not as modern evangelicals construe it, as having an emotional conviction of guilt. It seems eventually Nicodemus was born anew because he appears twice again in this Gospel: he speaks up for Jesus in a meeting of the priests' council, and he helps to bury Jesus' body, public acts in contrast with this secret first meeting.

When Jesus speaks of his being "lifted up," he means his crucifixion. He likens the cross' healing effects to the healing of victims of snake bite during their trek through Sinai who gazed at a bronze serpent affixed to a pole. Likewise whoever looks on the lifted-up Christ with faith can be reborn.

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