

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Story of Nicodemus

February 6, 2022

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

L: The coming of Christ was not, and is not widely welcomed. Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness: the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily; the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom; the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it; the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;
(Please take a moment of silent reflection.)

L: Most holy and loving God,

C: please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore your light within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we humbly ask, "Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us." Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen!

L: My friends, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us. Jesus came into this world to save sinners. In his name, I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven!

OPENING HYMN

"There is a Wideness in God's Mercy"

ELW #588

Verse 1

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment giv'n.

Verse 2

There is welcome for the sinner,
And a promised grace made good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

Verse 3

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify its strictness
With a zeal God will not own.

Verse 4

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
It is something more than all:
Greater good because of evil,
Larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
Let us take you at your word,
And our lives will be thanksgiving
For the goodness of the Lord.

+GREETING *{Front Center}* (Rob)

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptized: Cassidy Claire DeSchepper

Parents: Art and Emily DeSchepper

Sponsors: Paul Fourniea and Rachel Mahoney

+THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: Do you believe in God, the Father?

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

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

BAPTISMAL WELCOME

C: We welcome Cassidy into the body of Christ. Amen!

(music played while child walks down the aisle)

+PRAYER OF THE DAY {Front} (Greg Hornicke)

L: Birthing God, you gave us life when we were born of water and Spirit. Help us live into that new life, refreshed and renewed for your work.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING (*Pat Lair*)

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW pg. 142

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

+THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-21

Now 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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

+HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, Love, How Deep”

ELW #322

Verse 1

Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

Verse 2

God sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
In Christ our Lord to this world came.

Verse 4

For us he prayed; for us he taught;
For us his daily works he wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not himself, but us.

Verse 7

All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (*Greg Hornicke*)*Screen**After each petition:*

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Greg Hornicke*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.*Please share of wave of peace with one another.*

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Rob*)DIALOGUE AND PREFACE (*spoken*)ELW pg. 144/*Screen*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*brief intro*)

ELW pg. 144

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*Rob*)THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Rob*)*Screen*

C: 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

ELW pg. 146

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

+POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Rob*)

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

+CANTICLE

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"

ELW #207/ScreenThankful hearts and voices raise;
Tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
Rejoice and bear the name of Christ.Send us with your promises
And lead your people forth in joy
With shouts of thanks giving.
Alleluia, alleluia.+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Greg Hornicke*)

L: Loving God, you have fed our spirits with your word of hope and your food of life. Empower us to go forth strengthened and renewed, to serve the world you love.

C: Amen.

SENDING

+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (*Pastor Rob*)

L: May the eternal light of God guide you in the way of the peace, through the power of Holy Spirit now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

"God Loved the World"

ELW #323**Verse 1**God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.**Verse 2**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All who confide in Christ alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.**Verse 4**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins that you have done,
And justified by Jesus' blood,
Your baptism grants the highest good.**Verse 3**If you are ill, if death draws near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:**Verse 5**All glory to the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (*Greg Hornicke*)

L: Go in peace. Be the Light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Flowers given by Colin Quinn in memory of Susan.