

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The 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.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“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. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶**“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.** ¹⁷“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.

PSALM 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:

The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Jesus Espinoza; Celia Torres; Bjorn Landberg; Linda Wilson; Carol & Larry Sullivan; the family & friends of Jim Piatt; Aki Fukui; Lilly Fukui; Ray Chavira; Pastor David Berkedal & Rev. Sally Welch; Susan & Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Renee McCormick; Ron Sahara and his family; Moises Alvarado for the safe return of his dog, Charlie; Renate Kurrle & family; Glen Ambra, who is dealing with a rare pancreatic cancer; Gabrielle Zimmerman; for Rory; for Bonnie, recovering from a fall; for Ellen, after shoulder surgery; Meher Montessori School; for churches, may our hearts and doors remain open for those who wish to share the Good News; for our country, our military and first responders; watch over those who are affected by the war in Ukraine; for those struggling with anxiety & mental illness; for our neighbors & the healing of our city.



Next: Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
Augsburg Liturgies License: SB170464; Augsburg ELW License: SB170463; CCLI: 923430

Second Sunday of Lent March 5, 2023

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Sunday Service at 9:30 AM

2009 South Garfield Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754
Phone: (323) 721-0840 - Email: stpaulsmpk@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook @stpaulsmpk or our website stpaulsmpk.org

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

While LA County has formally rescinded the masking order as of 3/4/22, masks are still being recommended for use in public settings, such as our worship space. For the safety of our at-risk members and our current visiting pastor, we ask that you consider wearing a mask and maintain social distancing for the time being.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **These pages continue our approach to bringing information to those who gather here.** We are committed to communicating effectively and regularly with all, newcomers and long-time worshippers, regular or occasional, and especially those who can't be here. Each week a copy is sent by email or postal mail to each member and friend who were unable to attend worship on Sunday.
- **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience. We rejoice in our opportunity to join together in praise and thanksgiving to God. Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship. Any questions? Please ask.
- **We welcome Pastor David Berkedal as regular preacher and worship leader at St. Paul's.** Pastor Berkedal will be working on **Thursdays, from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm.** in Monterey Park to help us develop the congregation's ministry and outreach. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Welch began a Youtube Channel, "Streams of Living Waters" to provide connection and encouragement and an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Christian during times of isolation. Each video has been matched with a podcast on their "Living Water Radio" channel and a blog entry on "Words of Living Water." You may send an email to Pastor Berkedal at dberkedal@gmail.com for links to all three or visit our website (stpaulsmpk.org).
- **Coffee Hour & Fellowship will be held in the lounge following today's service.** To get to the lounge from the sanctuary, please exit the glass doors at the back, go through the glass doors on the right and straight ahead to the open door of the lounge. Today's refreshments are provided by the Lilly Fukui.
- **Church Council will meet on Thursday, March 9th from 3:45 pm-4:45 pm in the lounge.**
- **The ELCA has sent us study guides for Lent, 40 Days of Giving ,** in large and small print editions as well as a large calendar you are more than welcome to take home and use on your Lenten journey. There are also the *40 Ways to Pray* Lent booklets still available as well.
- **Elizabeth will be out of the office until Thursday, March 9th** as she is heading to San Antonio, Texas this morning for another work trip for her other job. Let us pray that she has a safe trip.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4a

¹Now 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. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I 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." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-5,13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For 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. 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.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Birthdays in March:

- **Rick Kurihara (March 9)**