

is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”<sup>4</sup> 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?”<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.<sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’<sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

*(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)*

## PROPER PREFACE

*Lent*

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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*Sources:* The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



## SEASONAL GREETING

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-9

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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,<sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALTER VERSES

*(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)*

### Psalm 33:12-21

- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, \*  
and blessed are the people he has chosen for himself to be his inheritance.
- <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven and beholds all the children of men; \*  
from the habitation of his dwelling he considers all those who dwell on the earth.
- <sup>14</sup> He fashions all the hearts of them \*  
and understands all their works.
- <sup>15</sup> There is no king who can be saved by a mighty host; \*  
neither is any mighty man delivered by great strength.
- <sup>16</sup> A horse is considered a vain hope to save a man; \*  
neither shall it deliver anyone by its great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, \*  
and upon those who put their trust in his mercy,
- <sup>18</sup> To deliver their soul from death, \*  
and to feed them in the time of famine.
- <sup>19</sup> Our soul has patiently waited for the LORD, \*  
for he is our help and our shield.
- <sup>20</sup> Our heart shall rejoice in him, \*  
because we have hoped in his holy Name.
- <sup>21</sup> Let your merciful kindness, O LORD, be upon us, \*  
as we have put our trust in you.

## EPISTLE READING

### Romans 4:1-5(6-12)13-17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham

believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ( <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

<sup>9</sup> Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. <sup>10</sup> How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. <sup>11</sup> He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, <sup>12</sup> and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. )

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup> 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 HOLY GOSPEL

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### John 3:1-16

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one